この音とまれ！

4

アミュー

JUMP COMICS SQ.

★この作品はフィクションです。実在の人物・団体・事件などには、いっさい関係ありません。デジタル配信用に再編集を行っています。

この音とまれ！

4

アミュー

JUMP COMICS SQ.

登場人物紹介

久遠愛

箏曲部新入部員。祖父の大事にしていた箏について深く知るために入部する。ケンカっ早く不良と誤解されているが、仲間を大事にする心の持ち主。

倉田武蔵

箏曲部部長。先輩達が卒業し、一人きりの部員となっていたが、5人の新入部員の獲得に成功する。しかしクセの強い部員達に振り回されっぱなしの様子。

鳳月さとわ

箏曲部新入部員。箏の家元"鳳月会"の生まれで、数々のコンクールで受賞した天才少女。母と衝突し、実家を出てアパートで一人暮らしをしている。

あらすじ

全校生徒の前での演奏を成功させ、箏曲部の存続が決定する。その勢いのまま全国を目指すことになり、さら妃呂が新たに入部して順風満帆に見えたが、彼女は部員達の関係に揺さぶりをかけるような言動を取り始め――!?

堺通孝

箏曲部新入部員。愛のためと言った実康を茶化していたが、彼も愛の力になりたいと考えていた。

水原光太

箏曲部新入部員。人なつこい性格で、すぐ抱きつくクセがある。愛とは実康や通孝同様、中学の時からの友達。

足立実康

箏曲部新入部員。中学生の時、高校生相手のケンカで愛に助けられる。その恩返しとして入部を決意。

来栖妃呂

武蔵の同級生で、箏曲部の演奏に感動して入部。しかし入部の本当の目的は部員の関係を壊すことだった!?

高岡哲生

愛とは子供の頃からのくされ縁。数少ない愛の理解者で、彼が起こす問題をフォローすることも。

鳳月千春

さとわの母。亡き夫の跡を継ぎ家元となるが、重圧から娘を会の跡継ぎとしてしか見なくなってしまう。

滝浪涼香

箏曲部顧問。指導する気は全くないが、さとわのレベルの高さには気付いているようで…。

この音(おと)とまれ!

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好評回饋！紀念漫畫3卷發售 卷中彩頁46P!!

この音とまれ！

アミュー

#12 THE REAL REASON

『一弦定音！』
VOMIC完全版公開中！
詳情請見SQ官方主頁！

THE SOUND IS BEAUTIFUL

BECAUSE WE ARE TOGETHER—!

PLEASE REMEMBER THIS COVER!

THIS ENGLISH RELEASE IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY FRIED SQUID SCANS. FOR FANS, BY FANS. NON-PROFIT.

この音とまれ！

YOUR KOTO IS A WEAPON.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING...

NEVER MIND WHAT SHE DID JUST NOW ACTU-ALLY DREW MORE ATTENTION TO OUR GROUP

IS THAT HOW YOU TEACH A CHILD

THE HOUTSUKI'S NAME CAN'T BE SAVED NOW!

WHAT AUDACITY!

REMEMBER TO SUPPORT THIS SERIES AND THE MANGAKA BY PURCHASING A COPY OF ALL AVAILABLE VOLUMES!

An idiot.

—Ah.

I feel like

ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?!

YOU HAVEN'T PRACTICED FOR TWO DAYS!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

I JUST WANT MOTHER TO RELAX A BIT.

NOTHING.

—Desperately

I DON'T NEED YOU TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT ME.

Playing the Koto

But nothing ever changes.

Instead, our bond only worsens.

SHE HASN'T TURNED UP AT ANY GROUP PRACTICES EITHER.
I HEARD SHE HASN'T TOUCHED THE KOTO FOR A WHOLE MONTH NOW.
DID YOU HEAR?
THAT CHILD'S BEEN SKIPPING PRACTICE LATELY.
SUCH A PROBLEM CHILD.
WE CAN'T LET SOMEONE LIKE HER SUCCEED OUR GROUP.
UNBELIEVABLE.
SHE'S SO FULL OF HERSELF, JUST BECAUSE SHE CAN PLAY WELL.

If it's going to continue to be like this,

there's no reason for me to play the Koto anymore.

AS OUR LEADER, HOW WILL YOU HANDLE IT?

MANY MEMBERS ARE UNSATISFIED WITH THE SITUATION.

BUT IT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY UNACCEPTABLE.

WE ARE AWARE THAT MISS SATOWA'S BEHAVIOR HAS BEEN RATHER FRIVOLOUS LATELY,

CHAIR-MAN.

YOU WANT TO QUIT, DON'T YOU?

YOU SKIPPED PRACTICE AGAIN.

.....

THAT'S NOT TRUE.

SLIDE-

IF THAT'S THE CASE...

SNORE

Zzzzz

.....

HEY, CHIKA. SCHOOL'S FINISHED.

WHACK

.....

HE'S BEEN LIKE THIS SINCE THIS MORNING.

WOW, THIS GUY CAN SERIOUSLY SLEEP.

Z Z Z Z Z Z

AH, YOU'RE HERE.

YES, I AM. SO SORRY FOR BEING HERE.

UMM—

STILL SLEEPY

YOU'VE GOT CLUB ACTIVITIES, RIGHT?

your hair's sticking up

I OVERSLEPT.

.....

Yawn

KY-AAAA AAA!

JUMP

HOUTSUKI -SAN!!!

STEP STEP STEP STEP STEP

A- ABOUT Y- YESTER- DAY

.....

NO, ABOUT THIS MORNING . .

CHIKA, DON'T JUST STAND THERE. HELP ME STOP HIM!

SOB SOB

BUT I'M STILL SLEEPY

DRAG

MY ASS YOU ARE.

M- MIZU- HARA- KUN.

THANK GOODNESS YOU CAME TO SCHOOL TODAY.

AH.

OI, KOUTA! DON'T!

uwaaaah!

RUN RUN

BUT WE'RE SO GLAD TO SEE YOU, HOUTSUKI- SAN

YOU HAD A FLU YESTER- DAY, RIGHT? HAVE YOU RECOVERED?

AH, YES.

THIS IS FOR YOU.

YOU'LL GET BETTER IF YOU EAT IT

OH, OH.

WE APOLOGIZE FOR TROUBLING YOU SO MUCH.

WHY ARE YOU GUYS STILL ON THAT?

EH?

AH.

ABOUT...

"You can tell me when you feel like it."

!

OF COURSE NOT.

YOU'RE NOT THAT WEAK, THOUGH, ARE YOU?

UGH...

OUR USELESSNESS WAS THE REASON WHY YOU GOT TOO SICK AND HAD TO TAKE LEAVE.

HUH?!

WHAT THEY MEAN IS—

I...

REALLY ENJOY THEM.

THE CLUB ACTIVITIES...

!

UWAAAHH

JUMP

EH...

HIRO-SENPAI.

THEN WHY DON'T YOU TELL EVERYONE THE TRUTH?

HOU...

HUH,

WHAT

HEY,

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

TAKEZOU -SENPAI.

I'M SORRY, HOUTSUKI-SAN.

MY GRAND-MOTHER

TOLD ME A LOT ABOUT YOU.

I WAS ALWAYS CURIOUS

AS TO WHY HOUTSUKI-SAN EVEN JOINED THIS CLUB.

BUT AFTER LISTENING TO MY GRANDMOTHER, I FINALLY UNDERSTOOD.

IT WAS BECAUSE THERE WAS NOWHERE ELSE YOU COULD PLAY KOTO

SO YOU JOINED.

IS THAT RIGHT?

BUT TO HOUTSUKI-SAN

THIS PLACE IS JUST A TEMPORARY SHELTER.

*SUEA-SENPAI

THIS CLUB IS VERY PRECIOUS.

YOU HAVEN'T TOLD ANYBODY THE TRUTH, RIGHT?

THAT'S WHY

I DON'T REALLY GET WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

*SUSU-SAN

AH, I'M SO SORRY, TAKEZOU-KUN.

SEEMS THAT HOUTSUKI-SAN HERE ISN'T WILLING TO COME CLEAN SO I'M JUST——

SENPAI

I'LL TELL THEM PROPERLY MYSELF.

I KEPT THE TRUTH TO MYSELF, BECAUSE I'VE ALWAYS TURNED A BLIND EYE TO THOSE EVENTS.

BUT

Since it's now or never,

I must sum up the courage to face the truth.

—I STILL HAVEN'T TOLD YOU GUYS SOMETHING.

"...that's not true."

"—You want to quit, don't you?"

"...in that case—..."

I

"From now on, you are no longer one of us."

I'VE BEEN DEBARRED FROM THE HOUTSUKI GROUP.

EH...

They took it.

They took it.

Aa, ah.

But that's the truth about human relationships.

In the end, it's all superficial.

"You're horrible."

!

Trust, friendship... all of these are just pretty words.

But, you can't blame them

since you kept something like this all a secret...

...BASICALLY,

I'VE NOT ONLY LOST THE RIGHT TO INHERIT THE HOUTSUKI GROUP BUT ALSO CUT OF ALL TIES WITH THEM... SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

WHAT DOES "DEBARRED" EVEN MEAN?

DUNNO.

Debarred sounds like something very serious

SLUMP

I give up

EAT MORE BREAD!

SOUNDS LIKE YOU'VE HAD T PRETTY ROUGH, I GUESS...?

SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED..

though I still don't get it

!

"Did your parents teach you how to play Koto?"

"That's none of your business."

Debarred... that means her mother...

UH,

UM...

!

THANK YOU FOR TELLING US ABOUT THIS...

HOUTSUKI-SAN...

Huh?

KUDOU-KUN, YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO SAY IT LIKE THAT.

THERE'S NO USE TELLING CHIKA. HE'S GOT A LIMITED VOCABULARY BANK.

YOU GUYS WANNA GET BEAT UP?

waa

waa

Ahaha

SO YOU NEED TO WORK ON NOT GETTING ILL ANYMORE.

THIS GUY HAD A TOUGH TIME TEACHING EVERYONE

YOU RESTED FOR A WHOLE DAY YESTERDAY.

.....

ANYWAY

!

HA.. HA.

EVEN IF WE'RE JUST HIGH-SCHOOLERS, THE EXTENT OF YOUR NAIVETY IS JUST UNBELIEVABLE.

YOU'RE SO SLOW, ALL OF YOU...

KURUSU-SAN?

...W. WAIT A MOMENT.

WHAT WAS THAT "THANK YOU FOR TELLING US" FOR...

THAT YOU HAVE SUCH GOOD "FRIENDS"?

...AREN'T YOU GLAD

KURUSU-SAN!

STOP CALLING ME!!!

KURUSU-SAN!

WAIT UP! HEY!

HUH!?

YOU'RE ALL IDIOTS.

WAIT...

what's happening?

DID YOU REALLY BELIEVE I JOINED BECAUSE OF HOW "MOVING" YOUR PERFORMANCE WAS?

NO WAY.

BUT I GUESS IT REALLY ISN'T GOING TO HAPPEN.

I WAS REALLY HOPING TO SEE YOUR PRECIOUS KOTO CLUB FIGHT AND BREAK UP

...AH WELL, THERE GOES MY PLAN OUT THE WINDOW.

HUH....?

YOU SPOUTED ALL THAT CRAP

ABOUT NOT WANTING TO LOSE THE PLACE WHERE YOU COULD PERFORM TOGETHER.

IT WAS SO CHEESY TO THE POINT WHERE I FELT NAUSEOUS ENOUGH TO JOIN!!

MAKE ME SICK!

FRANKLY, PEOPLE LIKE YOU

I

YOU MUST BE REALLY BORED, KURUSU-SAN.

IS THAT ALL YOU HAVE TO SAY?

SMACK!

"Thank you for telling us about this..."

"I only believe what she says herself."

WHAT THE...

STEP

So frustrating.

So frustrating...

"Hi—

Hiro!"

"Hiro!"

"Huh? What are you talking about? I've never complained about you."

"What nonsense are you saying—"

"I never thought you were the type of person who'd do things like this."

"Hiro, I heard"

you've been harassing Minami just to make her stay away

from your boyfriend?"

"My friend told me that

you're always complaining about me."

"If you hate me so much, we should just break up."

She was the who began it all by trying to steal my boyfriend.

That event was not something to easily pass judgment on.

"You're the worst."

"I can't believe it."

But everyone believed her story.

"Wait..."

"I never said anything like that!"

"I never harassed her!!"

They were my friends, and he was my boyfriend.

She transferred to our school in the 2nd year of Junior High.

"Listen to me!!!"

I HEARD SHE'S BEEN BULLYING MINAMI.

SCARY.

SHE JUST DOESN'T KNOW WHEN TO GIVE UP.

NO ONE BELIEVES ME.

DOES THAT MEAN I'M WRONG?

AM I REALLY THAT UNTRUST-WORTHY?

Or...

From that incident,

I learned to act friendly towards people.

And after winning their trust, I would throw in a small lie or two.

Are human relationships all like this?

DO YOU HAVE A MOMENT?

My lies always easily broke them apart.

It didn't matter how close they were...

By doing this carefully,

I could easily destroy people's friendships.

That Nadeshiko who everyone always laughs at and picks on.

The delinquent.

Even that little princess.

I was certain it would work this time...

But they all brushed my words aside and kept stupidly repeating: "we're friends"

I only believe what she says to me.

I thought that I just needed to give them one more push

and they would fall apart.

didn't do it just to hear those words being said.

UGH-

I HATE THIS...

.....

THIS...THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN SENPAI PISSED.

SCARY~

HE STORMED BACK INTO THE CLUB ROOM AND SAID "I HATE IT WHEN PEOPLE DO THINGS I DON'T GET"

...AND HE'S BEEN LIKE THAT EVER SINCE.

HEY, FOUR-EYES. DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME THINKING ABOUT THAT COMPLI-CATED, WEIRD BITCH.

TEACH ME ROKU-DAN.

YEAH, THAT'S OUR CHIKA.

HE'S FEAR-LESS.

ROKUDAN IS WHAT'S HARD TO GET.

EH?

HOW FAR DID YOU GET YESTERDAY?

I'VE PRETTY MUCH FINISHED THE FIRST DAN... BUT IT FEELS LIKE THERE'S NO END TO IT.

....I'M SORRY.

FWOOOM

Chika actually apologized!!

CLASSICAL PIECES ALL TRACE BACK TO DIFFERENT TIME PERIODS

SO YOU HAVE TO ADJUST YOUR PLAYING ACCORDINGLY.

EH.

BECAUSE THERE IS NO END TO IT.

EVEN SOMETHING AS SIMPLE AS STARTING A SONG ON THE 5TH NOTE

CAN DIFFER SINCE EACH TIME PERIOD HAS A UNIQUE TAKE ON PLAYING STYLES AND TIME SIGNATURES.

FOR SONGS WITH LONG HISTORIES,

THEY ARE PRONE TO BE INTERPRETED AND EXPRESSED DIFFERENTLY OVERTIME.

THUS IN A SENSE, IT IS ALL NEVER ENDING, EVEN TO THIS DAY.

IF YOU WANT TO UNDERSTAND THEM,

YOU HAVE TO PUT IN ALL YOUR EFFORT TO COMMUNICATE WITH THEM...

THEY'RE LIKE PEOPLE.

IT ADDS TO WHY CLASSICAL PIECES ARE DIFFICULT TO MASTER.

UNTIL YOU CAN HEAR A RESPONSE.

Good morning~

.....!

.....

WHAT LANGUAGE ARE YOU SPEAKING IN? JAPANESE?

ABSOLUTELY CLUELESS

I FEEL I SHOULD'VE BEEN THE ONE CRYING

AFTER HEARING WHAT YOU SAID YESTERDAY.

YOU KNOW...

...

WHY WERE YOU CRYING?

AS IF.

...WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO COMFORT ME IF I TELL YOU THE REASON?

SLAM

!

AH,

SENPAI

...

IF YOU'RE WILLING TO TALK ABOUT IT,

SHUT

BUT I THINK THAT IF THERE IS A REASON, I'M WILLING TO HEAR YOU OUT.

THEN I'LL LISTEN PROPERLY.

—TH-

THERE'S NO REASON!

TURN

!

!

"...Aren't you glad that you have such good 'friends'?"

KURUSU-SENPAI!!

...WHAT?

pant

UM...

YESTER-DAY SENPAI SAID THAT I JOINED THE KOTO CLUB BECAUSE I HAD NOWHERE ELSE TO GO.

BUT THAT'S NOT TRUE.

I JOINED BECAUSE I WANTED TO.

.... WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME THIS NOW?

BECAUSE I THINK THAT SENPAI AND I ARE ALIKE.

!!

WHY I JOINED... THE REAL REASON

"As of today, you are no longer one of us."

THEY'RE WEARING SCHOOL UNIFORMS

MAYBE IT'S FOR A CLUB ACTIVITY OF SOME SORT?

!

AFTER BEING EXPELLED,

THERE WAS NO MEANING IN PLAYING KOTO ANYMORE

GRADUALLY, I PLAYED LESS AND LESS...

JAPANESE...

MUSIC...

THE 15TH NATIONAL JAPANESE MUSIC COMPETITION

It's a koto club...

What am I even doing here.

I SHOULD LEAVE

But...

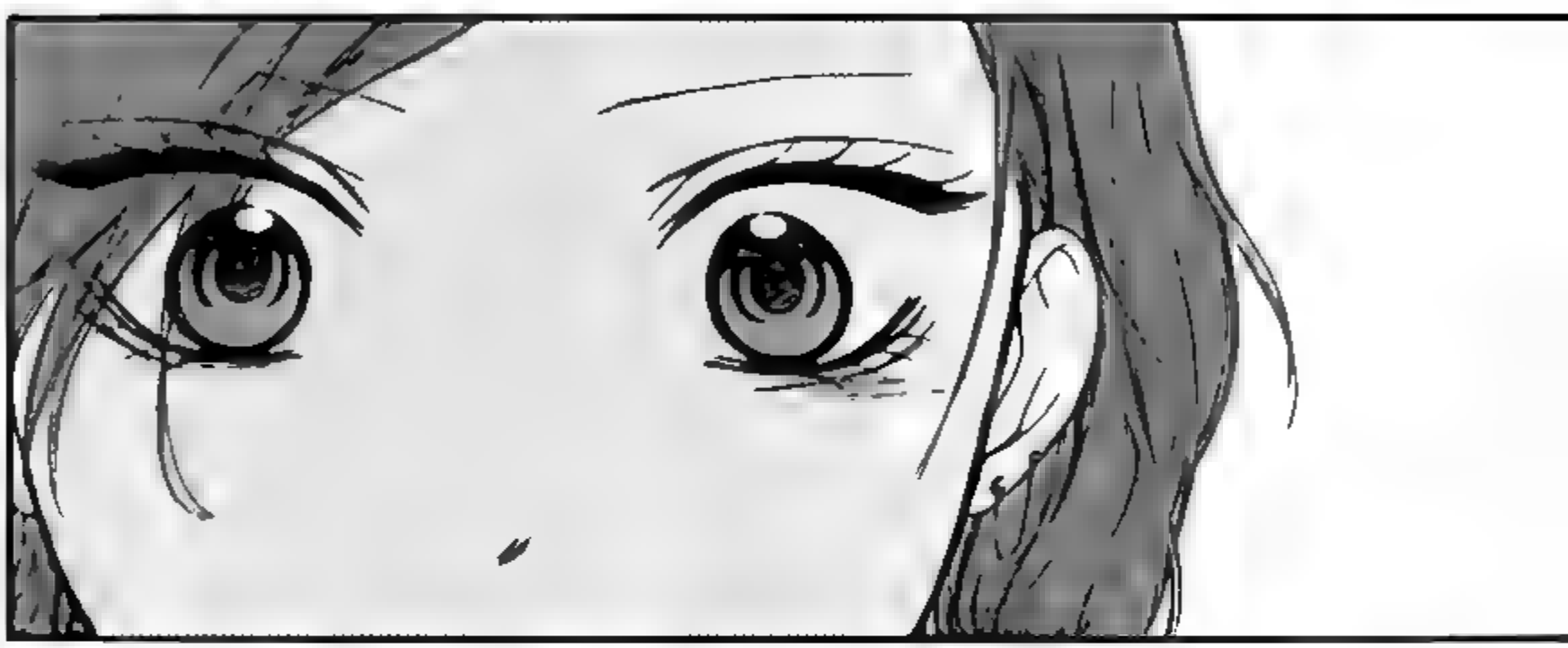
NO, IT'S MORE LIKE... THEY LACK PRACTICE.

THEY'RE SO BAD AT IT...

Why do they look like they're enjoying it so much...

I'm so envious...

I'm so envious.



HAHA.

WHAT THE HECK.

I'M SURE THEY ALL HAVE A PRETTY GOOD IMPRESSION OF ME BY NOW...

AS A NEW MEMBER WHO'S ALREADY SKIPPED TWICE, YOU'RE NOT LEAVING A GOOD IMPRESSION.

WE HAVE PRACTICE AS USUAL TODAY

HIRO-SENPAI'S NOT HERE AGAIN~

HA ~~~

IT-IT'S OKAY...

.....

ID-IDIOT KOUTARO!

I GUESS SHE'S NOT COMING THEN, HUH...

"I'll listen properly."

CHI

CHIKA-KUN...

DON'T JUST STAND THERE LIKE AN IDIOT. GO ON IN.

AH...

SO-SORRY...

KA CHAK

GET OUT OF MY WAY.

OI.
AREN'T YOU COMING IN?

THAT'S NOT MY DECISION

I'M SO GLAD YOU CAME!

AH, HIRO-SENPAI!!

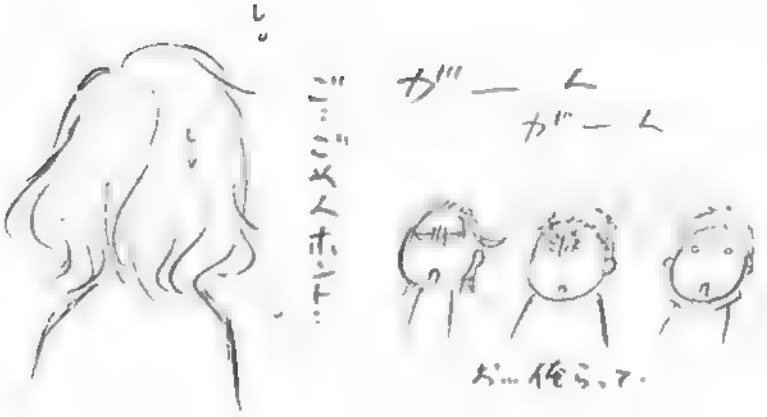
I HAVE A LOT OF THINGS TO APOLOGIZE TO EVERYONE ABOUT.

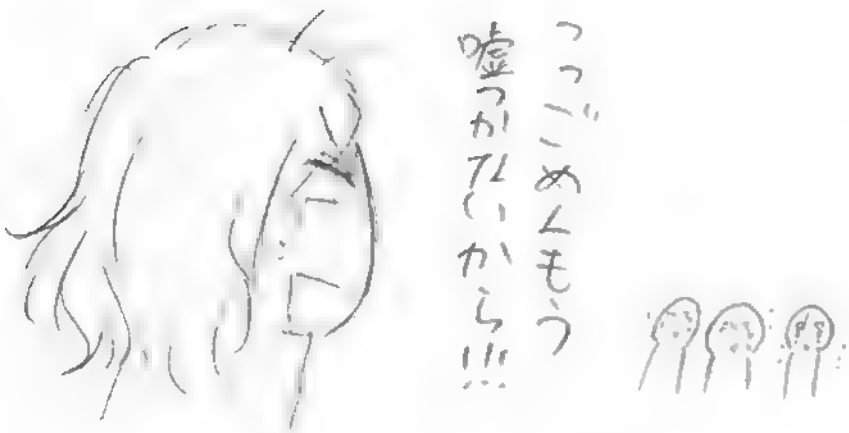
(THIS RELEASE IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY FRIED SQUID SCANS DOWNLOAD IN HIGH QUALITY @ FRIEDSQUID.WEEBLY.COM)

YEAH.

JUST BY COMMUNICATING THINGS WILL CHANGE.

ごめん…
え…!!
俺らに言ったこと嘘!?
ガーン!!!


ごごごメンホント…
ガーン
ガーン
お…俺ら…


っっごめんもう
嘘つかないから!!!

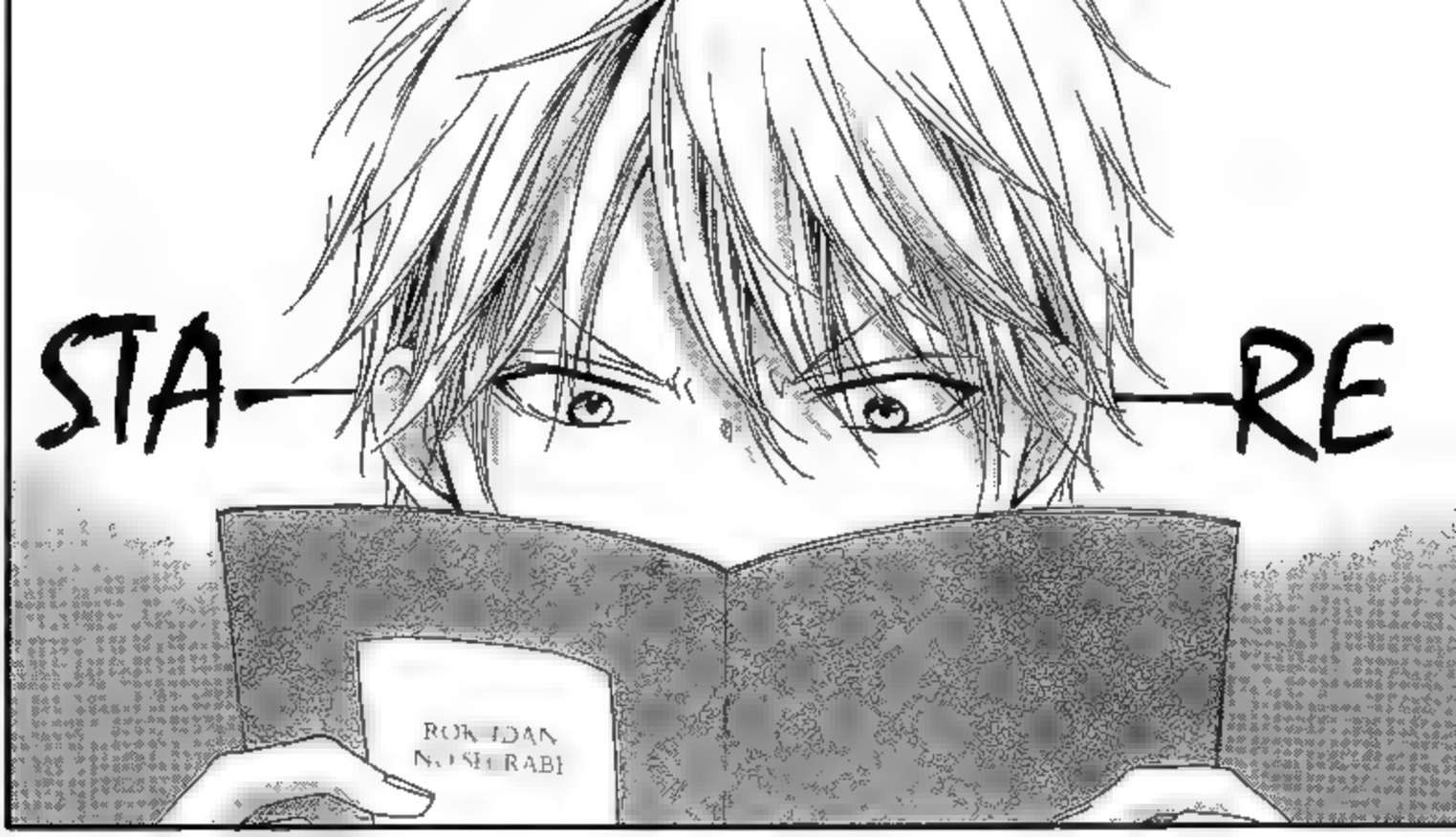
一番泣きたいの
私なんですけど
ごめんなさい

SUMMER ARRIVES
TAKINAMI SENSEI!
神奈
OH, TAKEZOU.
KANTO HIGH SCHOOL TRADITIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL..?
WE'D LIKE TO PARTICIPATE. CAN WE GET PERMISSION?
AH, I SEE, IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR TO START WEARING SUMMER UNIFORMS!
NICE~ HOW REFRESHING!
HUH, THANKS.
BUT CAN YOU LOOK AT THIS.
高校生

WHAT ABOUT THE UPCOMING TESTS? WILL YOU GUYS BE OKAY?
WELL, WHAT-EVER.
EH?
DIDN'T I SAY THAT I DIDN'T WANT ANY TROUBLE?
THIS ISN'T TROUBLE. I THINK THIS IS THE LEAST YOU SHOULD DO AS THE ADVISOR.
HOW BRAVE!

YOU KNOW, FINALS ARE RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER.
IF ANY OF YOU FAIL MORE THAN THREE CLASSES, THEN YOU WON'T BE ENTERING THAT LITTLE SHOW.
UGH ...!!!
GOOD LUCK.
THE MEMBERS OF THE KOTO CLUB AREN'T THE BRIGHTEST EITHER...

SERIOUS STUDY MODE..?!
この音とまれ!
THIS ENGLISH RELEASE IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY
#13 FROM HERE


STA—RE

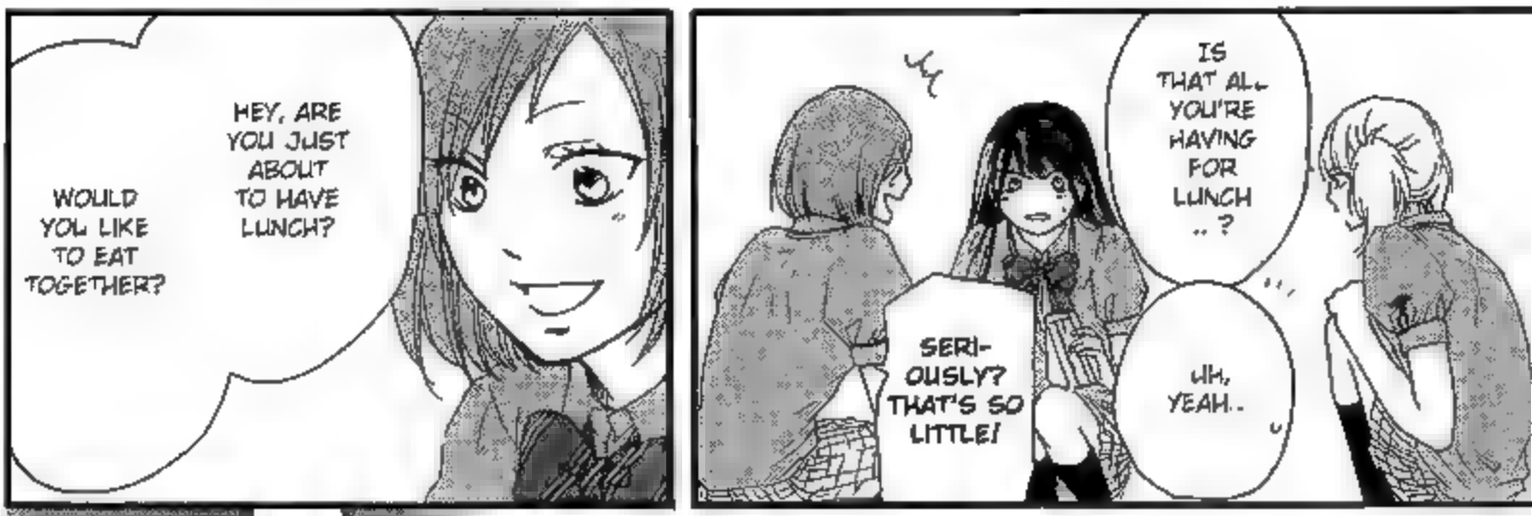
I've been immersing myself in this since last night
STARE—
THAT PERSON SAID I NEED TO IMMERSE MYSELF IN THE PIECE TO UNDERSTAND IT.
YOU'RE AMAZING, YOUKNOW.

YEAH.
Sta—re
WHAT'S THIS, YOUR NEXT PIECE?

YOU'RE SO ANNOYING.
LONER.
YOU'RE HAVING LUNCH ALONE AGAIN?

HAH !!?
...WANNA EAT TOGETHER?
KYA!
Outta my way.
FLAP
BUT ON SECOND THOUGHT, EATING WITH YOU WOULD MAKE THE FOOD TASTE BAD, SO NO.
Dessert
WHY DO I HAVE TO EAT W----
!
BUMP
WAA.

I'M SO SORRY!!
HEY, YOU STOP RIGHT THERE!
IT'S FINE, IT'S FINE.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, ARE YOU OKAY, HOUTSUKI-SAN?
WASN'T KUDOU-KUN BEING TOO MEAN? AFTER ALL, IT ISN'T RIGHT TO TREAT A GIRL LIKE THAT!
AH, NO. I'M OKAY.


HEY, ARE YOU JUST ABOUT TO HAVE LUNCH?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO EAT TOGETHER?
IS THAT ALL YOU'RE HAVING FOR LUNCH..?
SERIOUSLY? THAT'S SO LITTLE!
UH, YEAH..

UM... AH...
I I...
!

TURNS
!
HOUTSUKI-SAN..?
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO...
I-
I WANT TO!!!

IS-
IS IT REALLY OKAY TO HAVE LUNCH TOGETHER?
CLENCH
I...
PFFT.
Aha ha
OF COURSE !!!

Kobe club
THWOK!
Oi.
Tick
Tick
MUTTER
BUSY-BODY.
KURUSU-SAN...
HI... HIRO-SENPAI...
scary
scary
scary
W-
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FACE?
BA—N

I WENT TO FIND THE PEOPLE WHOSE RELATIONSHIPS HAD BEEN DESTROYED BY ME IN THE PAST
AND APOLOGIZED TO THEM.
I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D COME TO SCHOOL TODAY...
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?!
WRONG.
AND THEN THEY ALL SLAPPED ME.
SO IN-
INTENSE...
LIKE GUYS...
THAT WAS... WAS REALLY VALIANT OF YOU, KURUSU-SAN...
KURUSU SAN...
EVEN THOUGH THEY'LL PROBABLY NEVER WANT TO SEE ME AGAIN OR FORGIVE ME.
IT'S NOTHING.
ACTUALLY, I FEEL A LOT BETTER AFTER BEING HIT

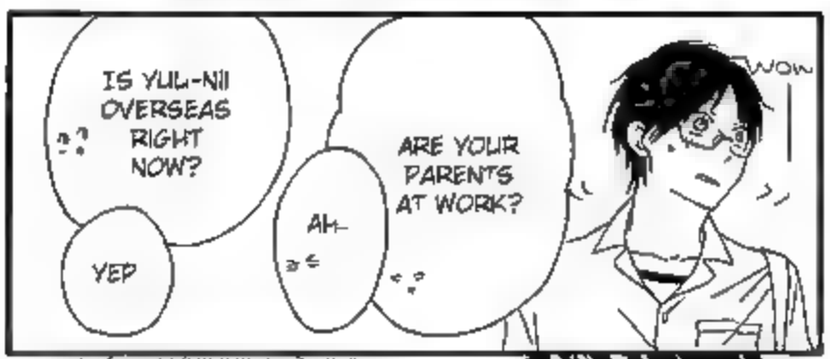
YOU'RE A VERY HONEST PERSON!
AH, MY IMPRESSION OF YOU HAS REALLY CHANGED!
UH, THANKS..
SHUT UP.
AREN'T YOU JUST REAPING WHAT YOU SOW?
TEARS
CHAN...?!
HOUTSUKI-CHAN.
DOES YOUR FACE STILL HURT?
ARE YOU OKAY THOUGH?
PUSH
EVERYONE ELSE WHO SEES MY FACE WILL ONLY SAY STUFF LIKE "SERVES YOU RIGHT"!!
glomp
AH, REALLY— HOUTSUKI-CHAN IS THE ONLY PERSON WHO CARES ABOUT ME!
AH, I ACTUALLY AGREE WITH THAT POINT THOUGH.
WAIT...

But I guess the problem's solved now...
"YOU KNOW, FINALS ARE RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER."
It feels like a lot has happened...
Asking me so suddenly
Because they feel quite big.
Hirai Senpai can we drop this please?
HOUTSUKI-CHAN, WHAT SIZE CUP ARE YOU?
SPURT
FINALS?
AH...
R-REALLY?!
Eh?
EASY-PEASY
ha
I THINK IT'S IF YOU SCORE BELOW 30 POINTS.
WHAT'S CONSI-DERED FAILING?
I we got this.
WE WON'T BE ABLE TO ENTER THE MUSIC FESTIVAL... WILL EVERYONE BE OKAY?
YEAH, IF YOU FAIL THREE OR MORE SUBJECTS,

OH YEAH!
THIS WEEKEND ...
LET'S ALL HAVE A STUDY SESSION FOR ONCE!
S.. SECRET WEA-PON ?!
YEAH, GOOD IDEA!
RELAX, IT'S NOT SCARY.
A TOP SECRET WEAPON!
YEAH. AFTER ALL, WE'VE GOT
kekekeke....
Jajann!
I'M FINE, THANKS.
SHALL WE JO N AS WELL?
THAT'S JUST STEREO-TYPING!!
YEAH, YOU'RE A FOUR-EYE AIN'T CHA? THAT MEANS YOU'RE BRAINY TOO.
UH.
THANK YOU, BUT I'M...
TAKEZOU-SENPAI, YOU SHOULD COME TOO!

HUH...
THAT GUY?
IT'S GONNA BE TOO HARD FOR HIM TO TUTOR FOUR GUYS ALONE SO YOU NEED TO COME TOO.
THAT GUY

どど～ん
SFX: TA-DA
KER-CHAK
URK ....
IT'S 'CUZ HIS DAD IS THE DIRECTOR OF A HUGE HOSPITAL.
THIS HOUSE IS ALWAYS SO HUUUGE.
MY HOUSE IS SMALLER THAN THIS GUY'S BATH-ROOM...



IT'S THANKS TO TETSUKI WE WERE ABLE TO ENTER THIS SCHOOL
TETSUKI IS AMAZING. HE'S REALLY SMART!
THAT GUY CAME FIRST IN OUR ENTRANCE EXAMS, Y'KNOW!
SETSUNA

I had no idea that their "top secret weapon" was Takaoka-kun.

WE'RE IN YOUR CARE AGAIN~
TAKAOKA-KUN, I'M REALLY SORRY FOR TROUBLING YOU TODAY ...
ACTUALLY, I'M RELIEVED YOU'RE HERE.
I CAN'T HANDLE THEM ALL MYSELF

what do you even come here for?
Chika didja bring your textbooks?
No
click
click
OKAY.
LET'S TACKLE MATH FIRST.
THWAP
YEAH!
FWD

THE MATH TEXTBOOK ISN'T LOOKING TOO GOOD RIGHT NOW. CAN WE DO SOMETHING ELSE?
HEY, TETSUKI ...
WHAT'S NOT LOOKING GOOD IS YOUR HEAD.
WHEEZE
WHEEZE

Sob, sob Why aren't these questions written in Japanese?
Is this really Japanese?!

30 MINUTES LATER
GET SERIOUS !!!
MATH IS SCARY. MATH IS SCARY.
Gloom
I'M HUNGRY.
WE AIN'T GONNA HURT YOU GUYS!!
SHOW YOUR-SELVES! COWARDS!
AREN'T X AND Y JUST AVOIDING US?!
Didja Get What I Said?
All of you
Well?
Oh, Youkai san~

(PEOPLE LIKE X AND Y)... ARE YOU GOING TO ABANDON THEM?
...YOU GUYS
IGNORES
It... it's too hard to teach these guys...
WHO CARES ABOUT X ANY-MORE!
Stu—pid
Stu—pid
HOW ON EARTH DID TAKAOKA-KUN DO IT?
A...
ABANDON ...?
Gulp
TOTALLY SERIOUS
AND YOU GUYS ARE SAYING YOU DON'T CARE ANYMORE. THAT'S ABANDONING!
THEY'RE ALL GOOD KIDS WHO HAVE TO DEA- WITH THIS LONELINESS.
THEY'RE HUMANS JUST LIKE US, BUT THEY'RE FORCED TO HIDE THEM-SELVES EVER SINCE THEY WERE BORN.

DEPRESSED
JUST LIKE US BUT...
ALONE.
LIGHT-NING
I FEEL SORRY FOR THEM...
X-CHAN...
Y-CHAN ...!!!
Gush
WHAAAAT
.. YOU GUYS ARE SO AMAZING.
WE'LL NEVER GIVE UP ON YOU!!
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE ALONE ANYMORE!!
IT'S OUR FAULT!!
.....
Uaaa
PLEASE TEACH ME HOW TO STOP X-CHAN FROM BEING ALONE!!
TECCHAN-SENSEI,
TAKEZOU-SENSEI, TEACH ME PLEASE!!

I guess something like this once in a while isn't a bad idea...
Heh.
AFTER THIS SESSION,
GETTING 30~40 POINTS SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM.
Lesson 2
AH, SO THIS IS HOW IT IS...
IT'S NOT THAT HARD AFTER ALL.
YEAH, I ACTUALLY FEEL SMARTER NOW!
NO WAIT... I'M STARTING TO WORRY IF I SCORE TOO HIGH, PEOPLE WILL THINK I CHEATED!
WOW, MUCH HAPPINESS ...
TECCHAN!
AH? Tec-chan?
kacha
URURURU
RURURU
I'M HUNGRY.
Food!
.....

CAN YOU WASH THOSE VEGETABLES OVER THERE?
LET'S SEE...
THANKS.
NO PROBLEM!
TAKAOKA-KUN,
IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP?
YOU COULD'VE GONE TO A BETTER HIGH SCHOOL
SO WHY DID YOU CHOOSE OURS?
...AH.
Splash
REALLY?
THE WAY YOU EXPLAINED ALL THAT MADE IT SO EASY TO UNDERSTAND.
YOU KNOW, TAKAOKA-KUN, YOU'RE REALLY SMART.
I SEE.
OI, FOUR-EYES.
JUST THAT, I GUESS.
BUT I GUESS THIS SCHOOL WAS CLOSE TO MY HOUSE, AND IT SEEMED LIKE A INTERESTING PLACE.
NO REASON, REALLY.
clatter

IF YOU'RE HERE, WHO'S GONNA TEACH US?
THOSE GUYS HAVE ALREADY STARTED READING MANGA.
I'M SO SORRY.
I SEE YOU'RE STILL ADDRESSING YOUR SENPAI AS FOUR-EYES.
SHAD-DAP
AH, BUT YOU CALLED HIM "SENPAI" THAT ONE TIME.
THAT WAS WHEN. .
YOU WANT A KNUCKLE SAND-WICH?
GLARE
SORRY.
WELL,
WHATEVER HAPPENS, I STILL SEE YOU AS OUR PRESIDENT...
.....
EH?

LAST TIME TO HOUTSUKI, YOU SAID—
THANK YOU FOR TELLING US ABOUT THIS...
RIGHT?

I THINK IT'S AMAZING THAT YOU COULD SAY THEM, JUST LIKE THAT.
THOSE WORDS WERE WHAT SHE NEEDED TO HEAR MOST AT THAT MOMENT.
WORDS LIKE THOSE...
I COULD NEVER SAY THEM OUT LOUD.

SHOCK
drip
drip
EH?!!
AH. CAN'T BELIEVE
YOU CAN ACTUALLY PULL IT OFF LIKE A REAL CLUB PRESIDENT...
RETREAT
HEY . YOU..
ARE YOU CRYING?
NO, IT'S THIS ONION.
ITS VAPOR GOT INTO MY EYES!!
IT HASN'T BEEN CUT THOUGH...
HURRY UP AND STUDY! STUDY!
SHEESH...
WHAP
AH!

clatter
clatter
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
SENPAI.
UM...
I'M FINE HERE. PLEASE GO AHEAD.
S-SORRY...
Tom
Tom
I FELT THAT IT WOULD BE REALLY DIFFICULT.
WHEN CHIKA SAID HE WANTED TO JOIN THE KOTO CLUB,
HUH..?
BUT THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN.
LIKE "AH, HE'LL BE REJECTED."
I THOUGHT THE CLUB MEMBERS WOULD REFUSE HIM...
I GUESS PROBABLY

SENPAI,
THANK YOU FOR PROTECTING THE ONE PLACE
WHERE THAT GUY CAN STAND UP STRAIGHT.

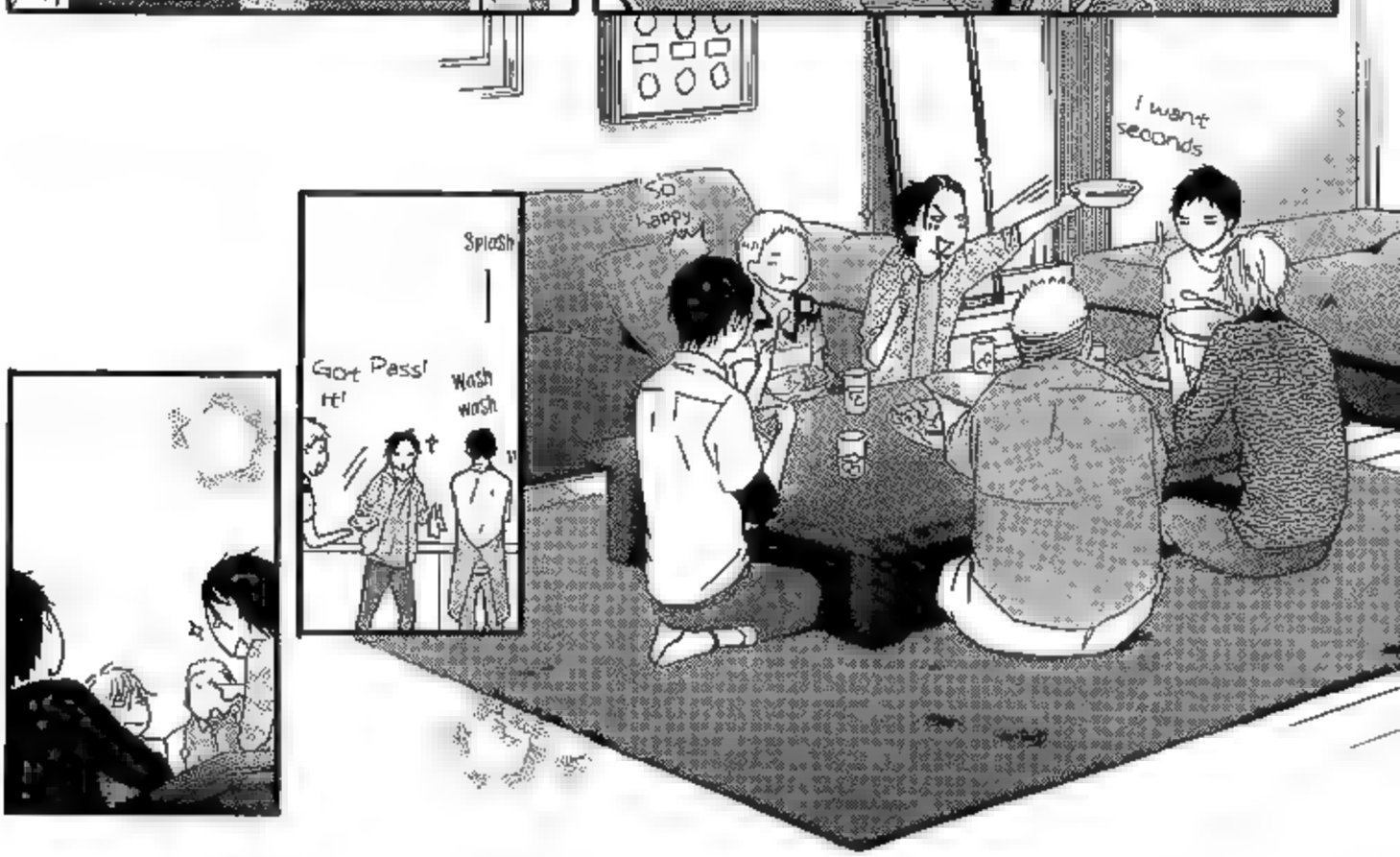
THAT'S WHAT I SHOULD BE SAYING TO YOU.
RUB
I don't have that sort of strength
to protect that place.
LOOKS DELI-CIOUS !!!
UAHH HHHH !!!!!

WOW, TETSUKI'S CURRY IS THE BEST.
OF COURSE, EVEN THOUGH TODAY I'M TIRED AS HELL.

ITADAKIMASU!!
munch munch
YUMMY!!

HM?
WHY NOT?!
IS THERE A PROBLEM?
NOT REALLY, I DON'T MIND...
We've already finished cramming

I WANT TO EAT THIS TOMORROW.
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE.

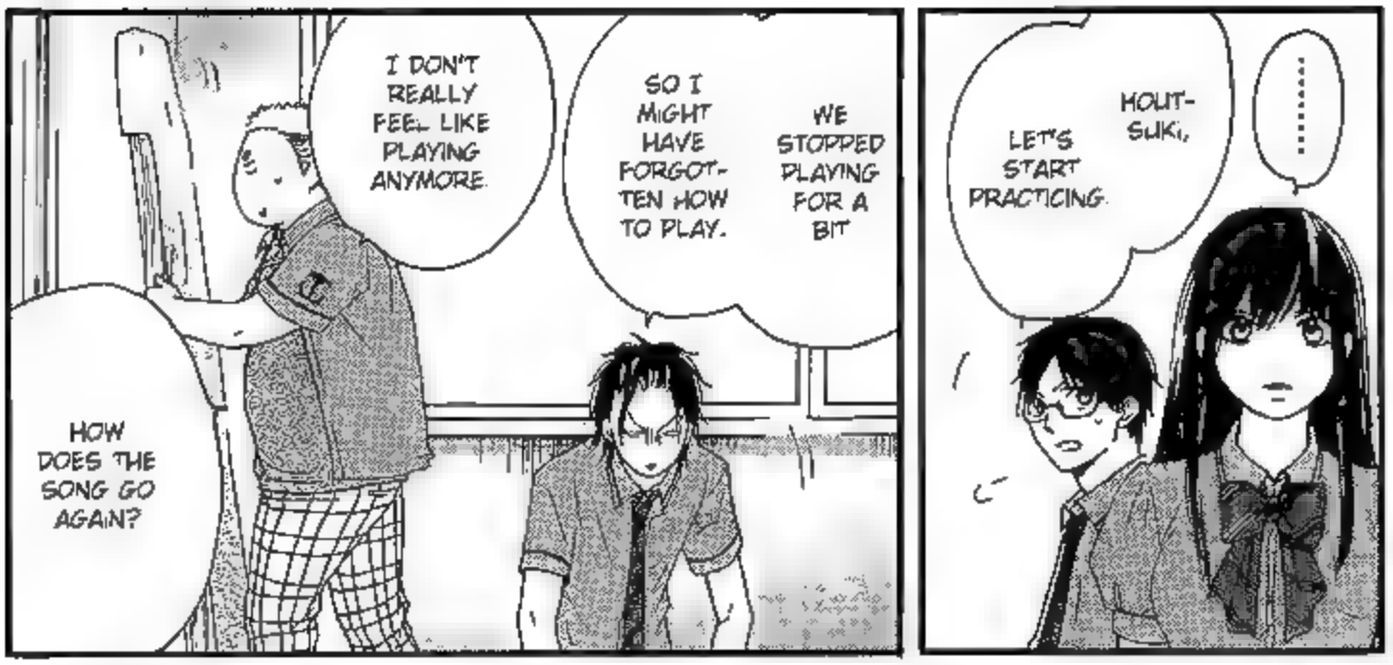

I want seconds
So happy
Splash
Got it!
Pass!
Wash wash

snore
zzzzzzzzzz
zzz
zzz
WE DID IT!!!
YAY !!!
30
WOW, SANE GOT 70 POINTS.
WOW, ARE YOU A GENIUS?!!
STOP IT, IT'S EMBARRASSING.
YOU'RE LIKE TETSUKI!
CHIKA, LET'S SEE YOURS.

WELL, ANYWAY, I'M GLAD NONE OF YOU FAILED.
WE CAN START DOING OUR BEST WITH ROKUDAN NOW.
MY PLAN WAS TO AIM FOR THE PASSING SCORE!!
I didn't say anything!
A-AH ...
THIS IS AMAZING... IN ITS OWN WAY...
YOU'RE EVEN MORE STUPID THAN US.
Waa
AFTER THE ROKUDAN, IT'S THE KANTO REGION HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC FESTIVAL.
THIS WILL BE OUR FIRST BIG PERFOR-MANCE.

T/N: CHARACTERS FOR SUZUKA = 涼 COOL + 香 FRAGRANT

I'LL BE OBSERVING YOU ALL CAREFULLY,
BUT DON'T MIND ME, GO AND PRACTICE!
.....
OSWALD
DID I WANT SOMETHING.. I'M YOUR ADVISOR.
I NEED TO POP IN SOMETIMES
THE VICE-PRINCIPAL WON'T BE PLEASED IF I KEEP SLACKING.
DOES SENSEI HAVE ANY MUSICAL EXPERIENCE?
"Only one person can actually play."
.....
NONE AT ALL?
NOPE.


I DON'T REALLY FEEL LIKE PLAYING ANYMORE.
SO I MIGHT HAVE FORGOTTEN HOW TO PLAY.
WE STOPPED PLAYING FOR A BIT
HOW DOES THE SONG GO AGAIN?
.....
HOUTSUKI,
LET'S START PRACTICING.

"If you want to understand them, you have to put in all your effort to communicate with them."
"They're like people."
"There is no end to it."
.....

WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU SHOUTING ABOUT..
I'M MORE SUITED TO DOING THAN THINKING!
WHAT THE HELL! I DON'T GET THIS!!
I need an example! An example!
BAM
BAM

In fact, how do you understand music?
Like a person...?
Like...??
Communicating with the piece...
was what she said, but I have no clue where to start.

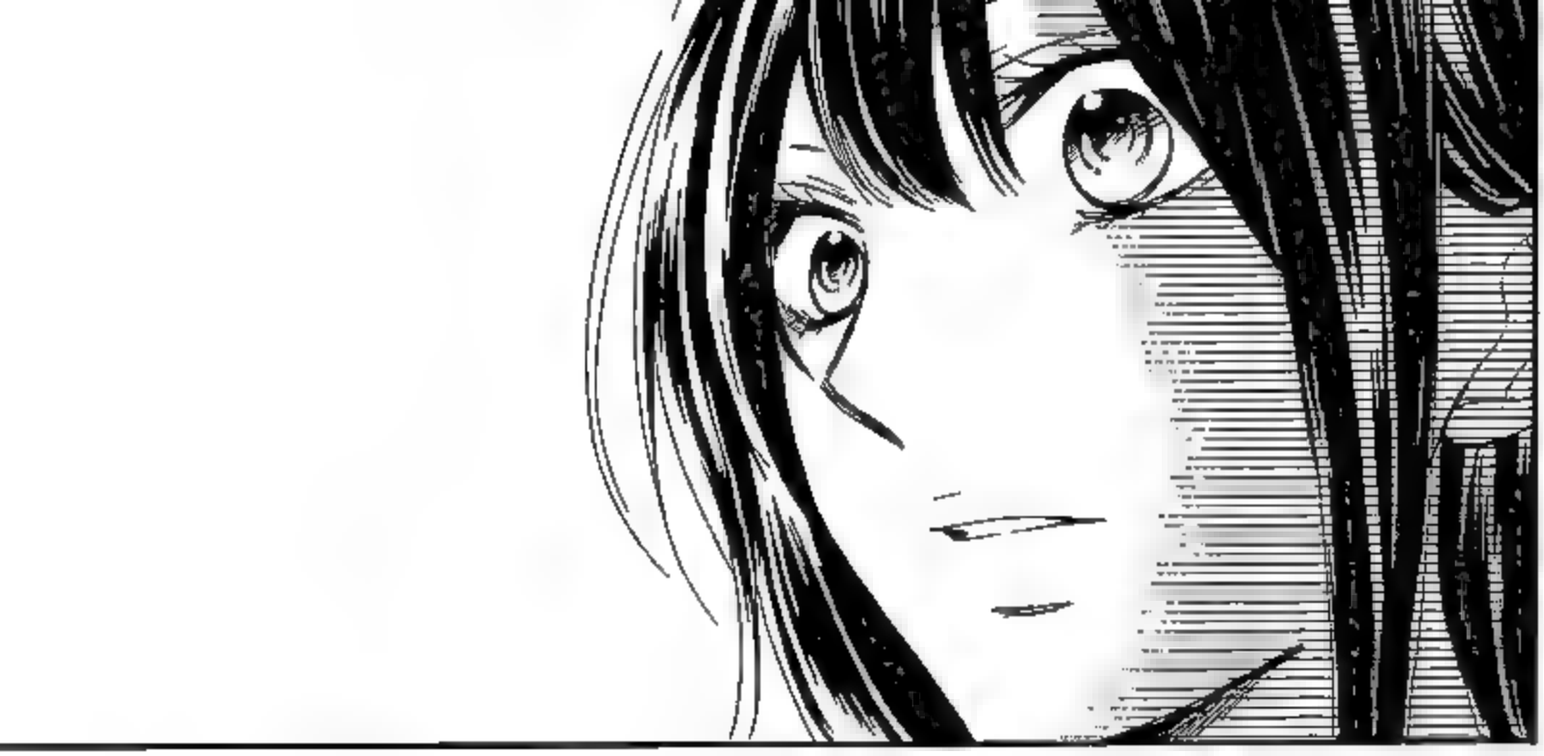
!
WHAT.
!
I
WANT TO HEAR YOU PLAY ROKUDAN.

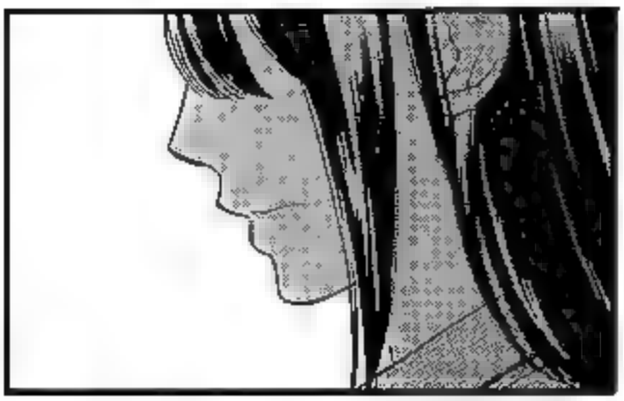
ACTUALLY...
BUT, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET SOMETHING OUT OF LISTENING TO YOU PLAY.
EH...
YOU SAID I HAVE TO UNDER-STAND THE PIECE
BUT I STILL DON'T GET IT.
I'D LIKE TO LISTEN PROPERLY TO
HOUTSUKI'S KOTO PLAYING ONCE MORE.

EVEN THOUGH
YOU PERFORMED *RYUUSEIGUN* TOGETHER WITH US,
THAT'S NOT WHAT I WANT TO HEAR.

WHAT I WANT TO HEAR HOUTSUKI'S KOTO PLAYING.

WE ONLY HEARD HOUTSUKI-SAN'S JUUSHICHI-GEN!!!
YEAH. WE WANT TO HEAR TOO!
"Your Koto is a weapon."
!!





slide

BADUMP
BADUMP
BADUMP
BADUMP
The Rokudan
truly has no end point
but suppose it does...

It will be...
OVERWHELMING...!
BADUMP

WHAT IS EVERYONE'S REACTION AFTER HEARING SATOWA'S ROKUDAN?
SEIZA
HA

この音とまれ!

VOLUMES 1-3 ON SALE

AMYUU #14 MILESTONE

〈FANSCANLATED BY FRIED SQUID SCANS〉
〈FREE DOWNLOAD @ FRIEDSQUID.WEEBLY.COM〉

STARE
...WHAT'S WITH YOU GUYS?
TOO SCARED AFTER HEARING THAT PERFORMANCE?
GULP
THAT...
THAT WAS AMAZING...
KOTO ...
COULD ACTUALLY SOUND LIKE THAT?
HAHA.
I CAN'T STOP HAVING GOOSE BUMPS.
AMAZING!
I'M NOT SURE HOW TO SAY IT BUT...
!

Fried Squid Scans

It's completely different...! I played on the same Koto, but...
My Rokudan's sound and everything is like entirely something else....
ENCORE! ONE MORE TIME!
badump
badump
It's so different...

KURATA.
HEY, ARE YOU OKAY?
"Once you've practiced the piece thoroughly, start bringing your own understanding into how you play and make the piece yours."
GULP
Each note seemed to vibrate with a life of its own...
"Simply following the score isn't enough for the Koto."

"That way, you will reach the listener's heart through the koto."
I see.
!
This is what you call a "song".
SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER
HUH ...

SITS
SFX: SHIVER
HOW CAN I PLAY LIKE THAT?
PLEASE TEACH ME!

WAIT.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO SHOCK YOU THAT MUCH. WHAT I MEAN TO SAY IS...
THAT WAS MY ROKUDAN.
THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO PLAY LIKE ME, YOU KNOW.
NO NEED
THUD
I
I THINK THAT...
EVERYONE SHOULD PLAY THEIR OWN ROKUDAN.
SO, HOW DO I PLAY THAT?
I GET IT!
SUCH HONEST EYES...
HEY, YOU.
HOUTSUKI, WAS IT?
YOU MAKE IT SOUND EASY.
BUT DON'T YOU THINK IT'S GOING TO BE INCREDIBLY DIFFICULT FOR THEM?

AH, KURATA.
I'VE ALREADY SUBMITTED YOUR APPLICATION FOR THE FESTIVAL.
WORK HARD.
I HEARD A WONDERFUL PERFORMANCE TODAY
I GUESS IT'S TIME FOR THE ANNOYANCES TO RETREAT THEN.
HAHH!? SHUT THE HELL UP.
QUIT CASUALLY BUTTING IN!
AH, OKAY, OKAY.
TIME TO PRACTICE LIKE THERE'S NO TOMORROW!
YEAH! I'M REALLY FIRED UP NOW!!
LET'S DO THIS!
WHAT A BAFFLING PERSON...
PACHAK

Scans

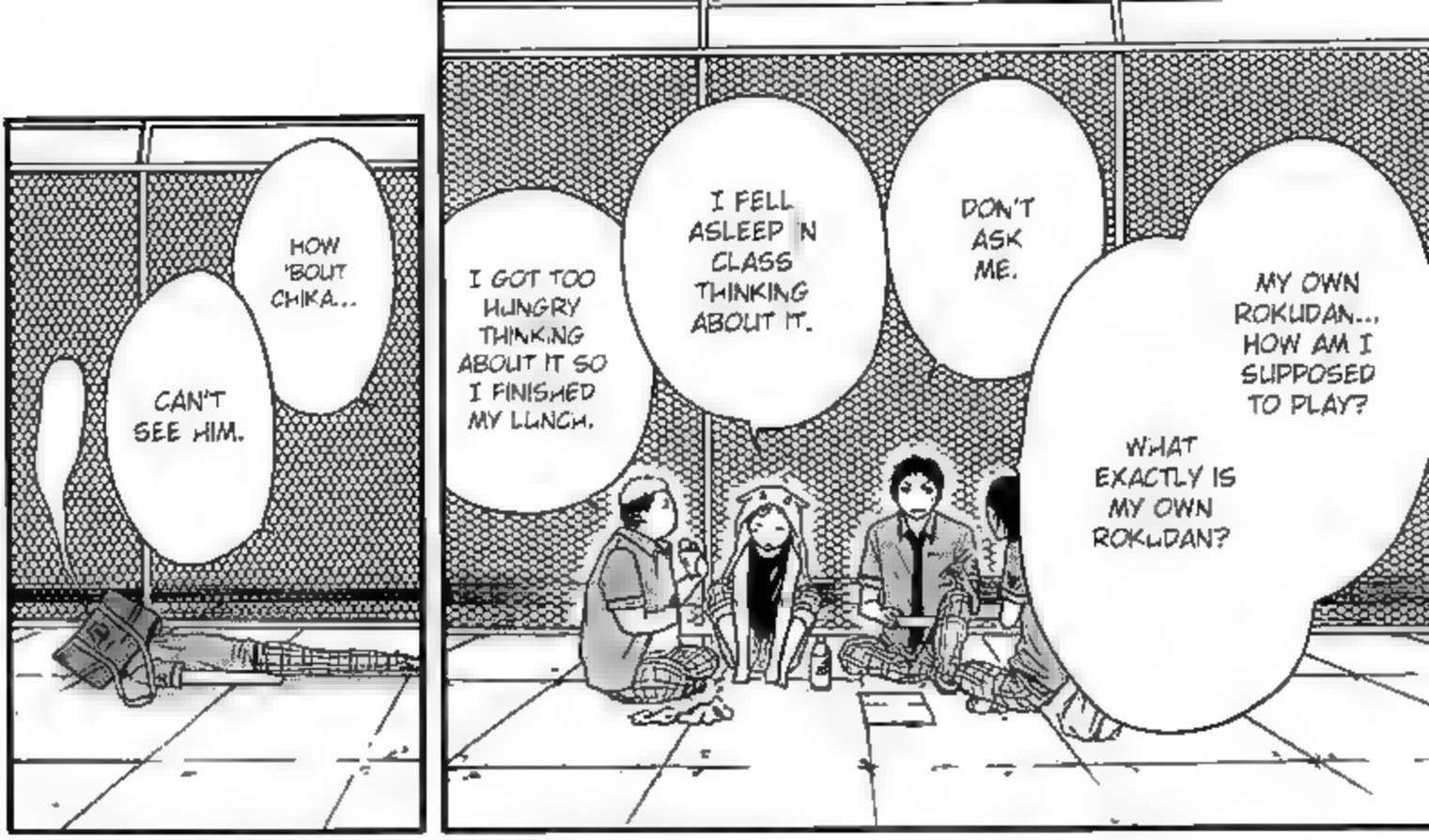
THOUGH AT THE MOMENT, MY ROKUDAN...
YOU CAN'T EVEN CALL IT A SONG...
My own Rokudan, huh...

I'LL JUST HAVE TO FOLLOW WHAT MY SENPAIS SAID AND FOLLOW THE SCORE.
BUT TO COME UP WITH MY OWN ROKUDAN ...
AND THERE'S SO LITTLE TIME LEFT TO PRACTICE. IT FEELS IMPOSSIBLE...
GLOOM
GLOOM
Are we too far from our goal?
HMM
HMM
I GUESS IT'S STILL BETTER TO STICK WITH THE BASICS ..?
WHAT'S WITH THAT FROWN?
!
KURUSU -SAN.
NOTHING REALLY JUST THINKING ABOUT THE ROKUDAN...
WOW.
YOU'RE REALLY SERIOUS...
I AM SERIOUS.
IS THAT WRONG?

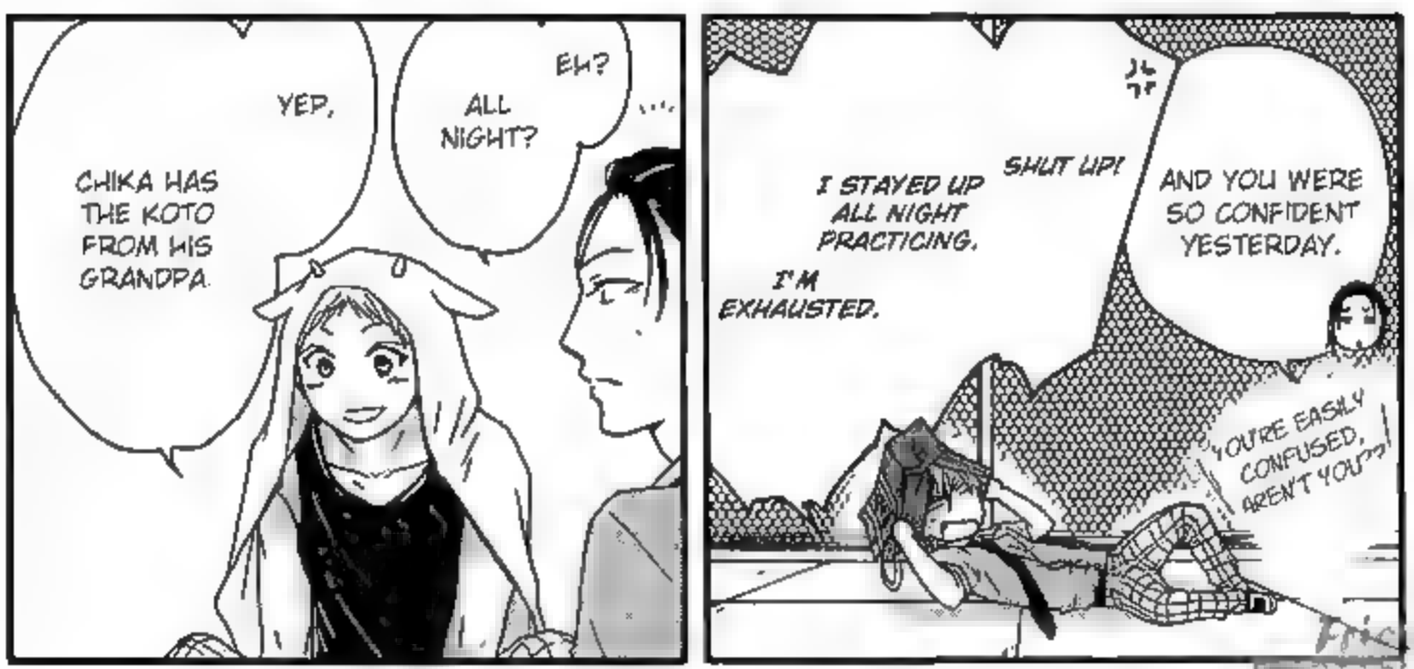
YOU CAN BE SERIOUS ABOUT SOMETHING
THAT'S ...
SOMETHING I CAN'T DO..
NO
I'M JEALOUS OF YOU.

THEN, WHY DON'T YOU TRY BEING SERIOUS ABOUT THE KOTO CLUB?

!...
EH!? H-HOW?
ESPECIALLY RECENTLY.
YOU'RE UNEXPECTEDLY SADISTIC...
ACTUALLY,
I'M GOING TO BE TROUBLED IF YOU'RE NOT SERIOUS. OUR GOAL IS THE NATIONALS AFTER ALL.
...
GR.N
AS I THOUGHT, THIS WON'T BE EASY...
HMMM.


HOW 'BOUT CHIKA...
CAN'T SEE HIM.
I GOT TOO HUNGRY THINKING ABOUT IT SO I FINISHED MY LUNCH.
I FELL ASLEEP IN CLASS THINKING ABOUT IT.
DON'T ASK ME.
MY OWN ROKUDAN... HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO PLAY?
WHAT EXACTLY IS MY OWN ROKUDAN?

I DON'T GET IT...
SERIOUSLY, I DON'T...
BUT SHE SAID I DIDN'T HAVE TO PLAY LIKE HER. MY OWN ROKUDAN...
I THOUGHT I FINALLY GOT IT...
DURING HER PERFORMANCE,


YEP, CHIKA HAS THE KOTO FROM HIS GRANDPA.
EH? ALL NIGHT?
I STAYED UP ALL NIGHT PRACTICING. I'M EXHAUSTED.
SHUT UP!
AND YOU WERE SO CONFIDENT YESTERDAY.
YOU'RE EASILY CONFUSED, AREN'T YOU??

Frigid Squid Scans

SAY...
CHIKA, WHERE ARE YOU LIVING NOW?
AH, THAT REMINDS ME!
YOU PRACTICED THE WHOLE NIGHT? AT HOME?
AT AUNT'S PLACE.
WHERE, YOU ASK?
EH...
EH!?
SERIOUSLY!?
WHAT, YOU GUYS DIDN'T KNOW?
OF COURSE NOT! WHY DOES TETSUKI KNOW?
HAS HE BEEN ROUND?
THAT...
HEH.
SO IT'S LIKE THAT
STARE...
SPARKLE SPARKLE SPARKLE

.....
LET US PRACTICE AT YOUR PLACE TOO~
AND NOW YOU CAN EVEN PRACTICE AT HOME... HOW~NICE~
YOU HAVE YOUR OWN KOTO,
HOW~ NICE.
YAY
CHIKA'S HOUSE~
WE'RE GONNA PRACTICE REALLY HARD. WITHOUT BOTHERING YOUR AUNT.
AH, WE'RE REALLY SORRY. WE'RE IMPOSING ON YOU AGAIN.
EXCITED

WHAT, THERE'S NO WAY SOMEONE LIKE HER COULD BE MARRIED TO SOMEONE.
IS YOUR AUNT SINGLE?

WHATEVER... IT WAS JUST ME AT HOME YESTERDAY
AUNTIE MUST BE A KIND PERSON
I'M SO JEALOUS THAT YOU GET TO PLAY ALL NIGHT WITH PROOFED WALLS.
CHIKA'S HOUSE
CHIKA'S HOUSE

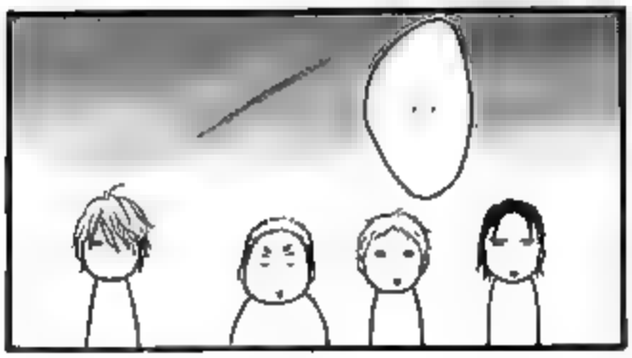
WHAT DO YOU MEAN WHERE.
I LIVE HERE.
EH
WAIT, CHIKA. WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
ARENT WE REALLY OUT OF PLACE HERE?
DUNNO
DUNNO
CHI-CHI-CHIKA-KUN.
A-A-AUNTIE-SAMA WHAT DOES SHE DO?

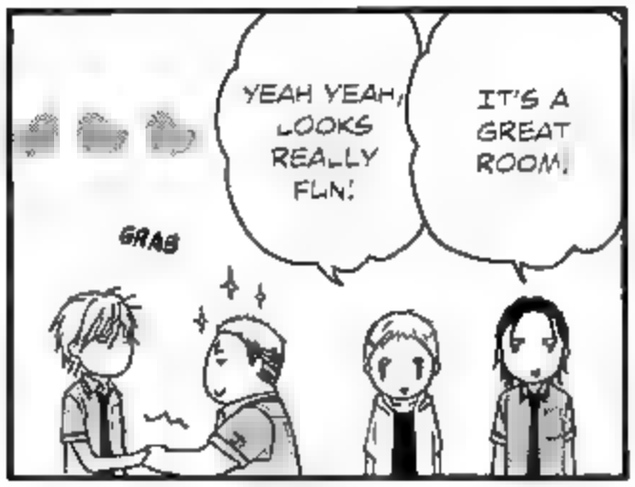
SFX.-BAM
PBT.
UGH...
THAT HURTS.
AH?!
COFFEE.
ISAKI, YOU...
COFFEE. DID YOU BUY IT?

TSK.
YOU LITTLE BRAT...
I MAILED YOU TO BUY SOME ON YOUR WAY HOME.
HA? COFFEE?
?!!
AUNT?!
SPURT
GLARE
GLARE
I DIDN'T-GET AN-Y MA.L.
Kyaa
WAIT-- PLEASE CALM DOWN, ONEE-SAN.
BITCH? WHO'S THE BITCH, HUH?
YOU DON'T NEED TO BITCH ABOUT ONE CUP OF COFFEE!
AS SOMEONE WHO LIVES HERE, CAN'T YOU EVEN BOTHER TO BUY GROCERIES? WHAT DO YOU WANT, HUH?
ARE YOU LOOKING DOWN ON ME?
EHHH
Fried Squid Scans

WHO'RE YOU GUYS?
AH, SO YOU'RE CHIKA'S FRIENDS.
FWOP
I'M KUDOU ISAKI.
I'M HIS DAD'S YOUNGER SISTER.
WELL, PLEASED TO MEET YOU, BOYS.

SHUT UP.
AND CAN YOU NOT LEAVE YOUR CLOTHES LYING AROUND WHEN YOU CHANGE?
THAT'S A RELIEF.
BUT YOU ACTUALLY HAVE FRIENDS APART FROM TAKAOKA-KUN.
DAUGHTER.
DAD'S YOUNGER SISTER MEANS... CHIKA'S GRANDFATHER'S...
O...OKAY.
BOYS. .
Y-YEAH.
CHIKA, WHERE'S YOUR ROOM.
YEAH, YEAH! LET S SEE IT!
sport
UNDER-WEAR!
AT LEAST SPARE ME YOUR UNDERWEAR!
AND IT'S MY ROOM SO I CAN DO WHAT I LIKE, RIGHT?
HUH?
...MY ROOM.
IT'S HERE...




YEAH YEAH, LOOKS REALLY FUN!
IT'S A GREAT ROOM.
GRAB

BUT, HUH. .

WAH, I REALLY WANT TO HEAR HOW YOUR GRANDFA-THER'S KOTO SOUNDS LIKE:
AH, OVER THERE ...
WHERE'S YOUR KOTO?

THERE ARE
TWO KOTOS...

HUH...
IF I HAVE TO FIND A REASON WHY...
HUH, NO...
I BORROWED IT FROM GRANNY.
IS IT ISAKI-SAN'S BY ANY CHANCE?
ONE S FROM YOUR GRAND-FATHER, THE OTHER IS...
EH
WHY?
I STILL DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD PLAY ON IT OR NOT...
GRANDAD'S KOTO...
BUT AFTER WHAT HOUTSUKI SAID...
WHEN I FIRST GOT IT, I WAS REALLY EXCITED SO I BROUGHT IT TO SCHOOL.
"What if it gets stolen or damaged? What'll you do then?"

Fried Squid Scans

"Granny, I know this might be asking too much but can I leave my koto at yours for now?

I don't think I have the right to play it yet."

TWICE I WAS THE REASON WHY GRANDAD'S KOTOS WERE DESTROYED.

I DON'T THINK I'VE MATURED AT ALL SINCE THEN.

...!

I'VE ACCEPTED YOU ALREADY.

THAT'S WHY I HANDED IT TO YOU AS RIGHTFULLY YOURS.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

GEN MADE THIS KOTO SPECIALLY FOR YOU.

I'LL LEND YOU A KOTO SO YOU CAN PRACTICE AT HOME.

BUT TAKE GEN'S KOTO WITH YOU AS WELL.

...FINE, IT CAN'T BE HELPED THEN.

"But don't let Gen's koto
Wait for too long."
PLAY ON GEN'S KOTO TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT.
.....
WHEN YOU FEEL WORTHY ENOUGH,
AND THEN, SOME-DAY,
THAT'S WHY
I'M STILL HESITATING TO PLAY ON IT OR NOT...
AND I'M STILL TROUBLED BY IT...
WHAT
WHAT'S THERE TO HESITATE ABOUT...

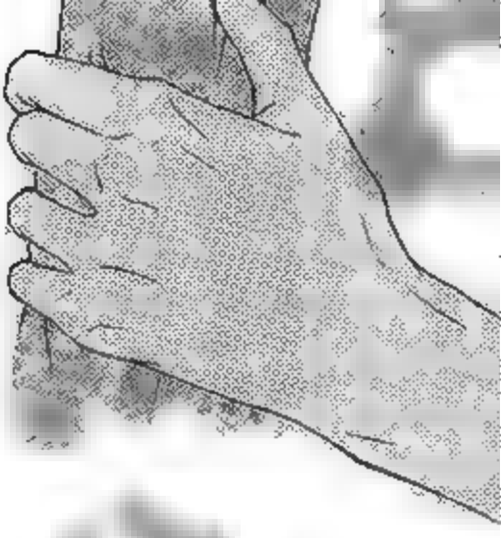
OF COURSE YOU SHOULD PLAY IT!
EVERYONE AROUND YOU CAN TELL.
AND YOU'RE SO HONEST ABOUT PLAYING THE KOTO.
YOU TREASURE YOUR GRAND-FATHER'S FEELINGS SO MUCH.
YOU TREASURE THE KOTO SO MUCH.
THERE'S NO REASON WHY YOU CAN'T.

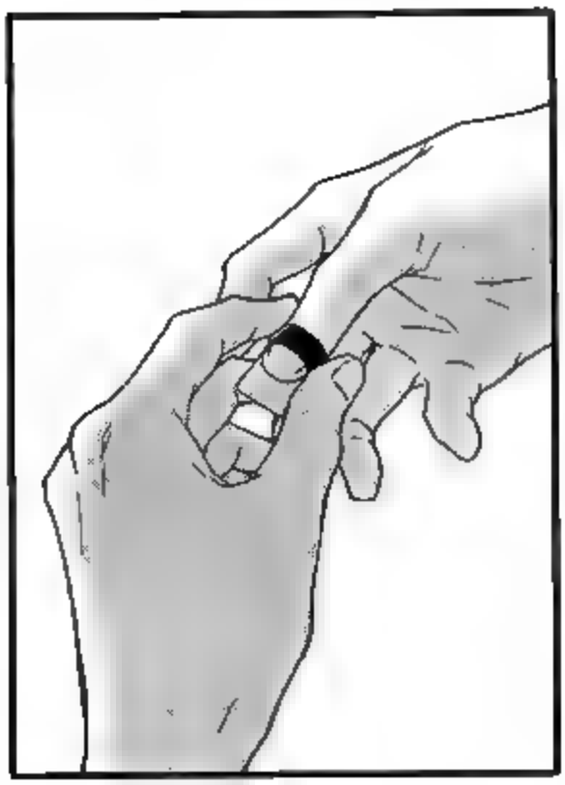
ALL WE'VE SEEN IT!

SO... THAT'S WHY..
WHY DO YOU ALL LOOK LIKE YOU'RE ABOUT TO CRY?
"DON'T JUST STAND THERE TALKING CRAP.
DO YOU WANT MY KOTO TO JUST DECAY?"

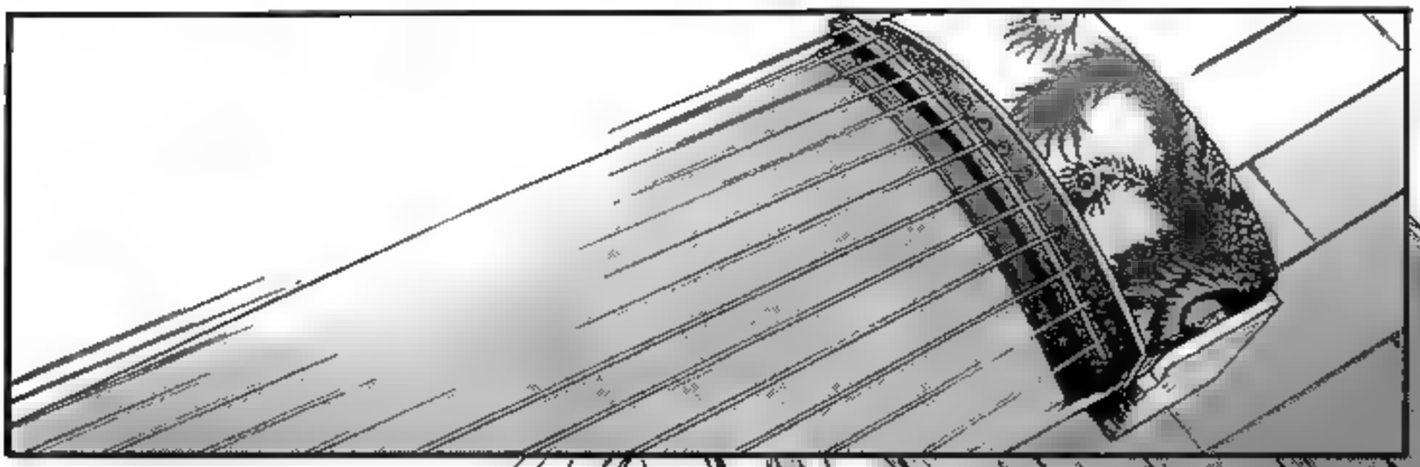
HAVING TWO KOTOS HERE TAKES UP TOO MUCH SPACE,
SO CAN YOU HURRY UP AND RETURN GRANNY'S ONE.
IS WHAT HE'D SAY.
YOUR GRANDFATHER, THAT IS.
HERE.
AH, YEAH.
CHIKA.
THIS 'S YOUR GRANDFA-THER S KOTO, RIGHT?

Fried Squid Scans





"For you. Wear it on your finger."



"You know, Chika."
"And what we call a song
is actually the composer's heart"
"Can connect with the player's heart."
"A Koto's notes"

"It is the composer's heart."
When did he begin?
What was he thinking about at the time?
Why did Grandfather compose this piece?
How did he feel when he taught it to me?

Fried Squid Scans

Ah, I see.

This is what's called "facing" the piece.

THE NOTES WERE GLOWING.
SOUNDED REALLY BEAUTIFUL.
CHIKA, YOUR GRANDAD'S KOTO
I FEEL LIKE MY MIND'S BEEN WASHED CLEAN.
IT WAS WARM BUT ALSO SAD AT THE SAME TIME
HMM.
WAH WAH
MOVED
THAT ....
THAT WAS REALLY AMAZING!
EACH NOTE WAS LIKE A RAY OF LIGHT~
THAT WAS SO COOL
YEAH YEAH, IT WAS LIKE THE NOTES WERE GLOWING!
CHIKA'S GRANDAD WAS AMAZING!
HE CRAFTED SUCH A GOOD INSTRUMENT!

YEAH.

WUAAAH!
WUAAAH
IT'S YOUR FAULT
HA HA
WILL YOU GUYS STOP CRYING NON-STOP?
RIVER OF TEARS
"Please look after Chika."
"If anything happens to me..."
"Hey, Isaki, can you do me a favor?"
..
HE EVEN SMILED RECENTLY.
HIS... EXPRESSIONS ARE STARTING TO LOOK WARMER NOW .
HUH? WHAT'S UP, DAD?
SPEAKING LIKE THAT...
PLEASE
ONE MORE PUSH
HE NEEDS JUST ONE MORE PUSH, AND HE'LL BE ABLE TO MOVE ON

I KNOW THIS MIGHT BE TOO MUCH...
....
BUT PLEASE ...
HE'LL LOSE AN ADULT WHO WILL TELL HIM WHAT'S RIGHT AND WRONG.
IF I DISAPPEAR FROM HIS SIDE NOW,
HE'LL LOSE HIS HOME AGAIN.

I REALLY HOPE THAT CHIKA CAN CARRY ON SMILING.

OKAY, NOW PLAY THE ROKUDAN!
YEAH, GOOD IDEA!
EVEN IF I'M NOT BY HIS SIDE.

HERE. WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER IF I PLAYED LIKE THIS?
YEAH. SOUNDS GOOD.
I HAVE NO IDEA IF I'M PLAYING IT ACCURATELY ENOUGH THOUGH. SORRY.
AND-
Don't worry.

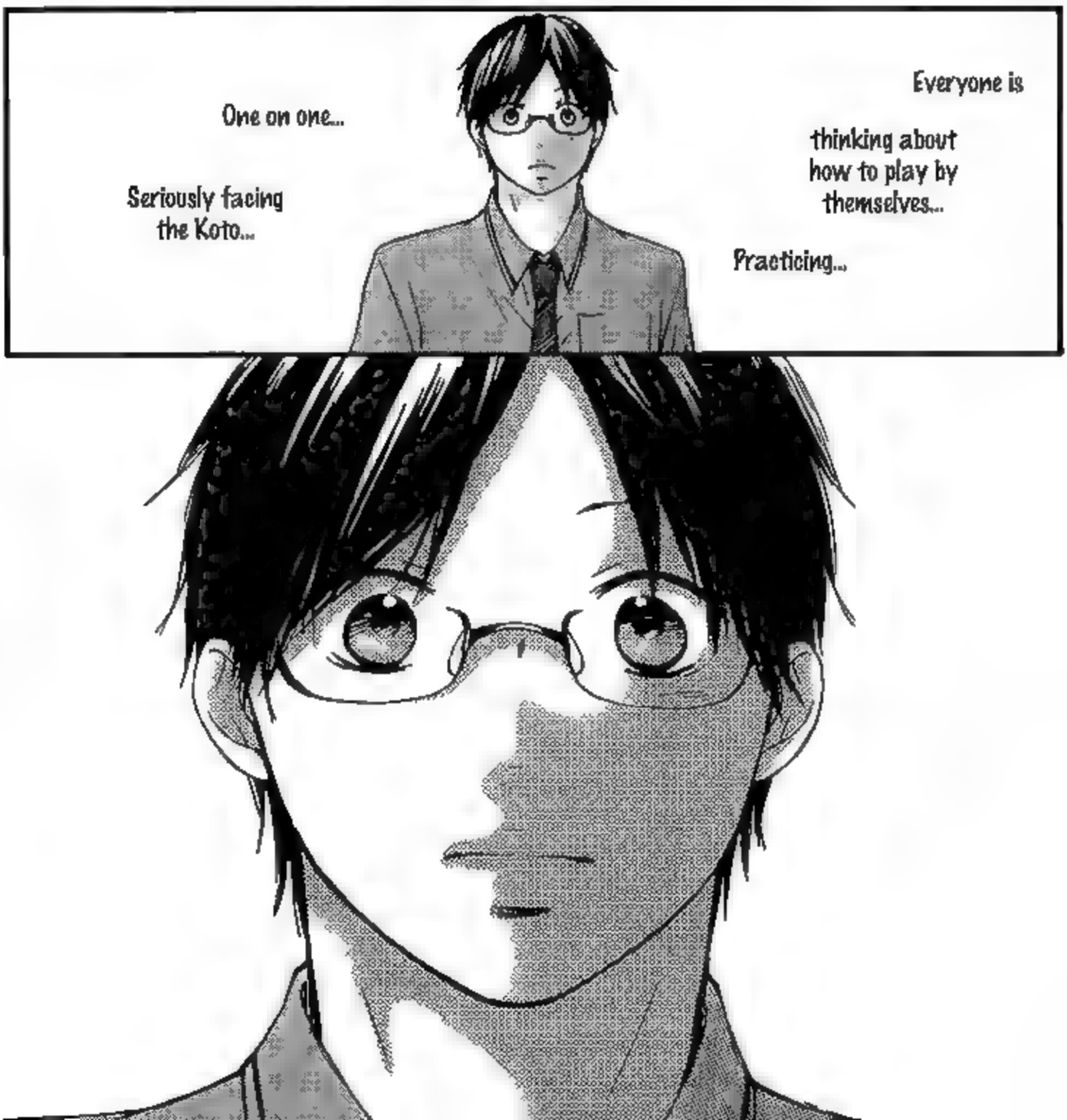
He's still smiling.
TAKEZOU-SENPAI.
CAN YOU LISTEN TO US PLAY ROKUDAN?
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE USED MY BRAIN LIKE THIS EXCEPT FOR EXAMS.
I THINK IT'S TOO SOON THOUGH
EH?
WE DISCUSSED A LOT ABOUT THE WAY WE PLAYED KOTO AT CHIKA'S PLACE YESTERDAY.
I'M FINE.
TODAY, I'M GOING TO TRY TUNING IT MYSELF.
MIZU-HARA-SAN, I'LL TUNE IT FOR YOU

SOMEHOW, EVERYBODY SEEMS REALLY ENTHUSIASTIC TODAY.
MORE THAN USUAL~

YEAH...
I CAN'T PLAY IF I LET THEM GROW.

KURUSU-SENPAI.
YOU'VE TRIMMED YOUR NAILS?
!

NOTHING.
I'M JUST HAPPY THAT SENPAI IS NOW SERIOUS ABOUT THE KOTO.
W-
WHAT?
TURN


One on one...
Seriously facing the Koto...
Everyone is thinking about how to play by themselves...
Practicing...

Rokudan.
Our goal...
It's finally within our reach!
Ah.
I WAS NOT!
WHY ARE YOU GRINNING BY YOURSELF?
IT'S CREEPY.

KAZUSA!
FUMI-CHAN.
IT SEEMS THAT SENSEI HANDED IN THE APPLICATION FOR THE KANTO REGION MUSIC FESTIVAL THAT I TALKED ABOUT EARLIER.
EH~
FOR THAT REALLY POINTLESS EVENT?
KOTO CLUB
IT'S AFTER THE NATIONALS, SO I DOUBT ANY GOOD SCHOOLS WILL BE APPEARING.
WHATEVER.
Fried Squid Scans
WINNING IT WILL STILL BE PRETTY FUN.
A STRONG COMPETITOR ENTERS!!

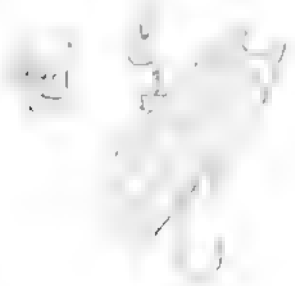
☆夜咲モ

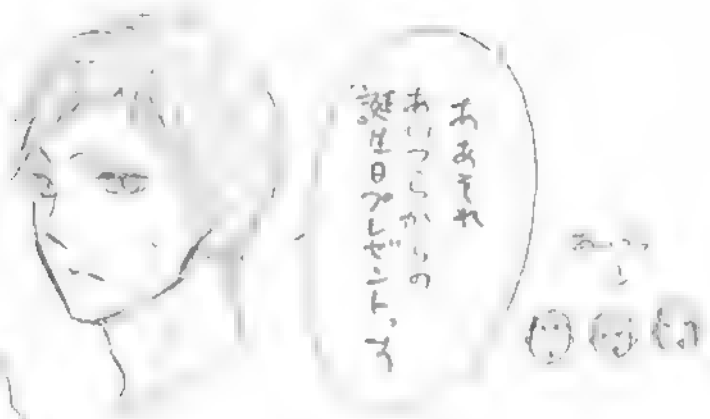
寝る時に
くっつき虫になる
☆咲こ

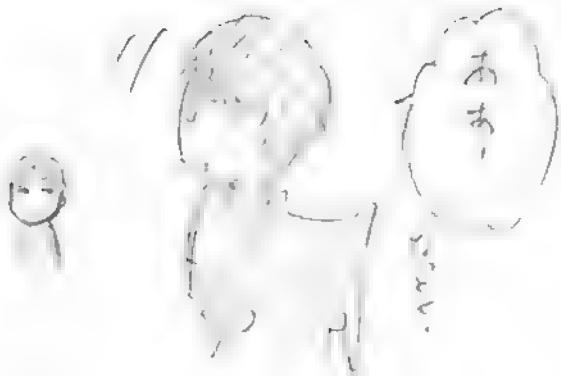
☆ある日の朝

☆智生宅

智生の部屋には
変なモノが多い







FAN SCANLATED BY FRIED SQUID SCANS

Kono O to Tomare

FRIED SQUID SCANS RECOMMENDS BATOTO.NET

Trick or Treat or Music!

#15 INCOMING STORM

MORNING AT THE KURATA'S
SFX: GETS UP
I'VE GOT SOME THINGS TO TAKE CARE OF BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS.
Thanks for the meal.
AH TAKEZOU, YOU'RE LEAVING ALREADY?
SFX. KACHA
DON'T TELL ME IT'S CLUB ACTIVITIES?
TAKERO
I WISH YOU'D SPEND LESS TIME WITH THE KOTO.
AS A GUY, DON'T YOU FEEL EMBAR-RASSED?
HEY, TAKERO !!!
I'M SO GLAD MY BROTHER DIDN'T GO TO MEIRYO FOR SENIOR HIGH
I DON'T THINK I COULD STAND BEING IN THE SAME SCHOOL.
TAKERO!
..
HOW CAN YOU TALK LIKE THAT...
I'M ONLY SAYING THE TRUTH.

...
I'M LEAVING.
ガチャ
日本全土に影響
SFX: RUSTLE

NISHINA INSTRUMENTS

WOW,
THAT'S A LOT...
DID YOU COME TO FIND A PIECE TO PLAY AT THE MUSIC FESTIVAL?

I'M SORRY FOR COMING SO EARLY IN THE MORNING.
IT'S FINE. I WAKE UP AT 5 AM ANYWAY.
LOOK,
THAT'S WHERE ALL THE SHEET MUSIC IS.

YES.
WE ALWAYS RELY ON HOUTSUK-SAN FOR ANYTHING KOTO-RELATED.
KUDOU-KUN AND EVERYONE ELSE ARE WORKING REALLY HARD...
THAT'S WHY,
I HAVE TO WORK HARDER TOO, AS CLUB LEADER.
YOU'RE TAKING THIS VERY SERIOUSLY.
BUT AREN'T YOU PUTTING IN A BIT TOO MUCH EFFORT?
.....
DO YOU WANT TO PLAY A CONTEMPORARY PIECE?
OR A CLASSICAL?
FLIP FLIP
...WHY DOES EVERYONE ALWAYS SAY THAT I'M VERY SERIOUS?
I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING SPECIAL..
NEVER MIND.
THERE'S NOT MUCH TIME LEFT UNTIL THE MUSIC FESTIVAL.

I NEED TO GIVE IT MY ALL!
SFX: SLAP
ばんばんっ
WHAT ARE YOU LISTENING TO, KAZUSA?
"DOUBLE PERSONALITY"?
YEAH.
pat

THAT GIRL'S PERFORMANCE AGAIN?
QUIT CHASING AFTER SHADOWS.
YOU'RE THE KAOUKAI'S SUCCESSOR AFTER ALL.
ぼあ
!!!
SERIOUSLY, FUMI-CHAN!
SATOWA HASN'T DISAPPEARED.
SHE'S JUST TAKING A BREAK, THAT'S ALL!

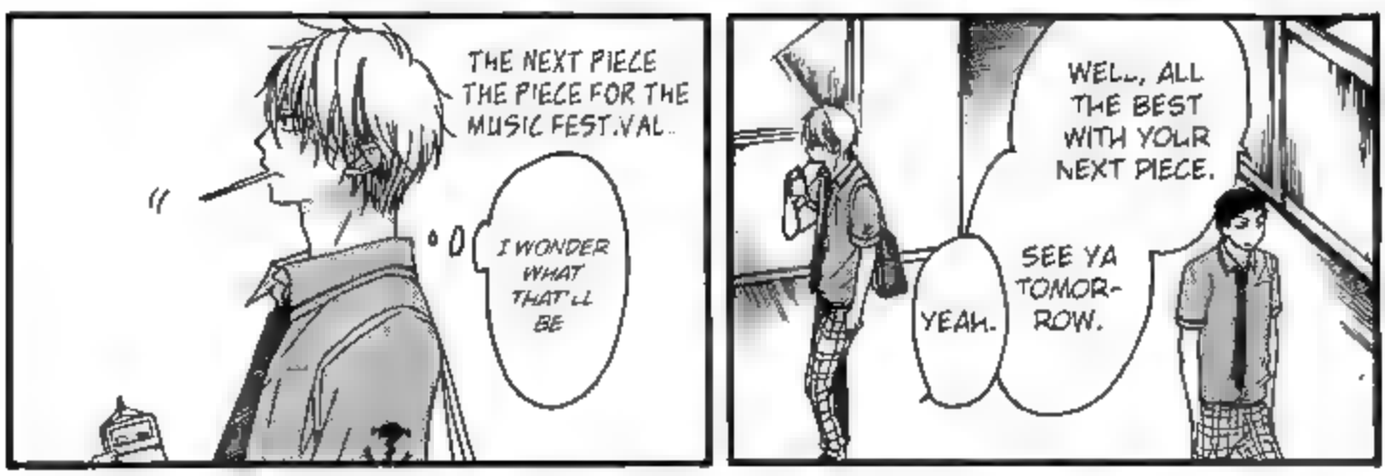
AH, YES, YES.
BUT WE'RE AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL SO YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T BE LISTENING TO THAT GIRL'S PERFORMANCE...
FUMI-CHAN, YOU'D BE CONVERTED IF YOU LISTENED TO SATOWA'S PERFORMANCE TOO.
I'VE ALREADY LISTENED TO YOU SAYING THAT OVER AND OVER.
NOT THE RECORDING, THE LIVE PERFORMANCE!
THE LIVE IS TEN TIMES BETTER THAN THE RECORDING!!!
THE FIRST TIME I HEARD SATOWA-CHAN'S PERFORMANCE WAS
WHEN I WAS IN SECOND GRADE, AT A JOINT PERFORMANCE BY THE KAOUKAI AND HOUTSUKI GROUP.
IN GRADE FOUR, SATOWA-CHAN PERFORMED
"KAZEN.KIKE."
IN GRADE SIX, SHE PLAYED
"TOR.NOYOUNI."

T/N: "KAZENIKIKE" LIKE THE WIND
"TORINOYOUNI" LIKE A BIRD

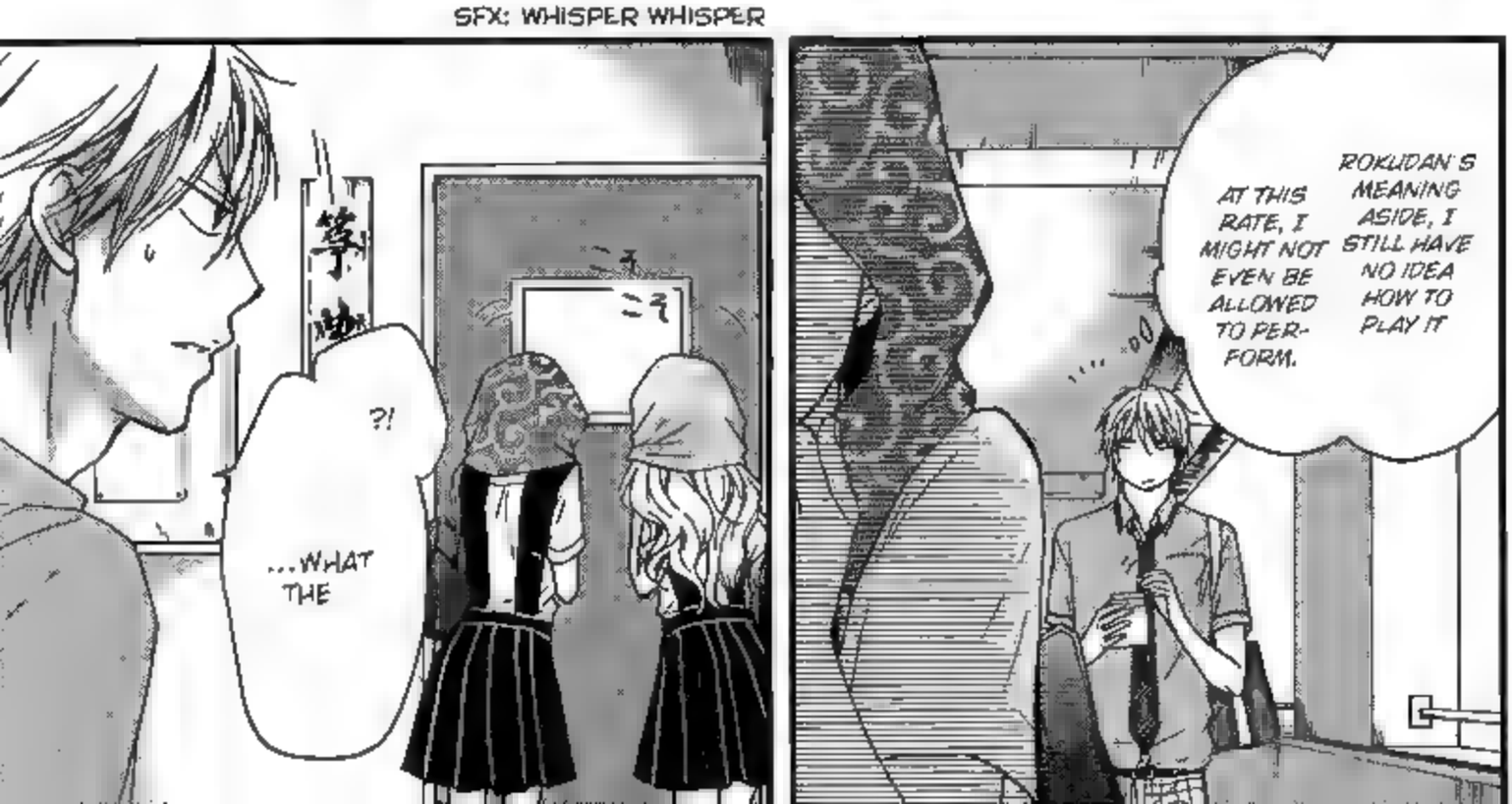
IN HER SECOND YEAR AT JUNIOR HIGH, IT WAS
"HANAYAGI"
...!..!
EACH PIECE WAS UNBELIEVABLE FOR HER AGE.
HER PERFORMANCES WERE SO MOVING THAT THEY LEFT THE LISTENER WITH GOOSE BUMPS!
THEN... ON STAGE AT NATIONALS, IT WAS THE LEGENDARY "FAILED PERFORMANCE" ...
THAT WAS HER LAST. SHE LEFT WITHOUT EVER EXPLAINING IT...
AAAH... SATOWA-CHAN, WHERE ARE YOU?! IT'S MY DREAM TO PERFORM WITH YOU!
CRIES
SHE'S AT TOKISE HIGH SCHOOL.
CASUALLY

SHE MAY OR MAY NOT BE IN TOKISE HIGH SCHOOL'S KOTO CLUB.
BUT IT'S ONLY A RUMOUR.
...EH?
GO WHERE?
ISN'T THAT OBVIOUS?
GRAB
LET'S GO, FUMI-CHAN!
RIGHT NOW!
TOKISE HIGH SCHOOL'S KOTO CLUB!!!

SERIOUS FACE
YEAH!
I'M NOT PRAISING YOU THOUGH.
Just to be clear
WELL, NOT EXACTLY. I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW TO ACTUALLY PLAY IT...
EH... SO YOU'VE FINALLY WORKED OUT THE MEANING OF THE ROKUDAN THEN.
WELL, IT SOUNDS GOOD FROM WHAT YOU SAY.
SLURP


THE NEXT PIECE THE PIECE FOR THE MUSIC FEST.VAL..
I WONDER WHAT THAT'LL BE
WELL, ALL THE BEST WITH YOUR NEXT PIECE.
YEAH.
SEE YA TOMOR-ROW.

SFX: WHISPER WHISPER



IT'S FINE! OUR CLUB LEADER IS REALLY LENIENT TOWARDS ME.
HEY, ARE YOU INSANE?!
MORE IMPORTANT-LY...
ABANDONING YOUR OWN CLUB AT THIS IMPORTANT TIME TO SNEAK INTO SOMEONE ELSE'S...
SFX: EEEK!
DID YOU WANT SOME-THING?
IS-
IS SATOWA-CHAN REALLY GOING TO BE IN THIS RUN-DOWN LOOKING PLACE ...?
EH UH

IT'S A GUY!!!
WHAT A VICIOUS LOOKING GUY!!!
I'M GOING TO BE ATTA-AAACKED !!!
CALM DOWN, KAZUSA! IF IT COMES AT US, WE'LL FACE IT TOGETHER!
!!?
△
☆
※
!!?
GLA—
—RE
Kazusa/Fumi-chan vision
AH—
HEY, IF YOU DON'T NEED ANYTHING, THEN GET LOST.
YOU'RE IN MY WAY.
KY—AAAAA!!!
Jolt

KYAAA!!! GROSS!!!
JUST TO LET YOU KNOW, I WASHED MY HANDS AFTER USING THE TOILET!
WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH YOU TWO!
IT'S OKAY, KAZUSA! I'VE BROUGHT SANITARY WIPES!
It's really effective.
I'm not dirty!
W... WHAT...
EEK! FUMI-CHAN, THAT GUY TOUCHED ME!!
HOW DIRTY !!!
DIRTY...?!
IT'S A GUY!
OPEN
HEY.
WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING?!
WAHEHEHEHE
ALL GUYS... IS THIS HELL...?!!
MORE GUYS...!!
ARE YOU OKAY?!
OI, WHAT'S THE RUCKUS?!
DASH

Kazusa's vision
WHAT'S EVERYONE DOING?
SA...
SATOWA-CHAN~
...EH?
shake shake

YEAH...♥
...
KAOLIKAI'S
...
OOTORI KAZUSA-SAN...?

IT'S OKAY, FUMI-CHAN!
WHAT THE HELL?! DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH KAZUSA

WHAT? SO SHE WAS HOUTSUKI'S ACQUAIN-TANCE.
NOT EXACTLY. I ONLY KNOW HER BY NAME...

LIKE THE HOUTSUKI GROUP. IT'S A BIG CLAN.
KAOU KAI...?
WHAT'S THAT?
SO YOU DON'T KNOW HER!
WE NEVER SPOKE. EVERY TIME SHE WALKED PAST ME, I HID MY FACE.
I WAS TOO EMBARRASSED AT THE TIME.

I HEARD A RUMOUR THAT YOU WERE AT THIS SCHOOL'S KOTO CLUB SO I CAME TO SEE IF IT WAS TRUE...!
UM...
SO...
WHAT DID YOU WANT TO SEE ME ABOUT...?
SO KAOUKAI ALSO HAS A SUCCESSOR [illegible] THE SAME AGE AS HOUTSUKI...
IT SEEMS INCREDIBLE ...
What's with those two girls...
AND THE ROOM IS SOOO DIRTY...!!!
HA?
WHEN I GOT HERE, IT WAS A CAVE FULL OF VICIOUS BOYS!
STAB
THE TOKISE KOTO CLUB.
I'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD ABOUT
PLEASE COME TO HIMESAKA GIRL'S ACADEMY WITH US!
THAT'S WHY SATOWA-CHAN COULD ONLY COME HERE!
I KNOW A LOT OF TERRIBLE THINGS HAPPENED TO YOU AFTER THE NATIONALS!

PLEASE COME WITH US TO PLAY THE KOTO AT HIMESAKA.
IT'S NOT RIGHT TO BURY SATOWA'S TALENT IN A PLACE LIKE THIS!

SFX: SHOCK

NO, I'M FINE.

NO, YOU'VE MISUNDER-STOOD.
THAT'S AWFUL! THEY'RE SO LOW...
IT'S... IT'S TRUE, RIGHT?!
EH?! NO...
ARE THOSE HORRIBLE GUYS FORCING YOU TO STAY HERE?!
SHOCK
W-WHY...
STAY CALM
JUST A FOREHEAD FLICK.
SHE'S ASKING FOR IT.

I'M FINE HERE!

JOLT
NGH...
embarrassed
WOBBLE
I DON'T BELIEVE YOU...
YOU'RE LYING...
KAZUSA!
SATOWA-CHAN, YOU'RE ONLY SAYING THAT BECAUSE YOU HAVEN'T HEARD OTHER KOTO CLUBS!
IF YOU HEARD US PERFORM, YOU'D DEFINITELY COME TO OUR CLUB!
IT'S PERFECT TIMING!
CLUB LEADER, ARE YOU GUYS FREE NEXT SATURDAY?
UH..
YEAH...

ACTUALLY, NEXT WEEK,
HIMESAKA'S KOTO CLUB AND TOKYO'S ELITE SCHOOL MEIRYO'S KOTO CLUB,
ARE GOING TO HAVE A MUSIC EXCHANGE SESSION!
PLEASE BRING SATOWA-CHAN TO LISTEN TO US.
MEIRYO ...?
YES! IT WILL BE HELD AT MEIRYO AS WELL.
IT STARTS AT 10 AM.
BUT TO SUDDENLY ASK ME TO GO...
I WILL LET OTHERS KNOW BEFOREHAND!
"PERFECT TIMING" MY ASS!
BARGING INTO OUR ROOM LIKE THAT AND EVEN CRITICIZ-ING IT!
I'D REALLY LOVE TO HEAR JUST HOW MUCH BETTER YOUR PLAYING IS THAN OURS!
EH? YOU'RE A CLUB MEMBER TOO?
AND HERE I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST SOME LOAFER IN THIS CLASSROOM.

KACHA
AND THEN YOU'LL SEE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US AND YOU!
I'm gonna make you cry! Definitely - going to make you cry!
WELL, WHY DON'T YOU COME TOO?
YOU GUYS...
AREN'T WORTHY OF SATOWA-CHAN!

IS HIMESAKA REALLY THAT GOOD?
W-
WHAT WAS WRONG WITH THEM...?
THEN...
SEE YOU LATER, SATOWA-CHAN.
Kya
SFX: SHUT
I ONLY HEARD THEM ONCE...
BUT THEIR PERFORMANCE WAS OVER-WHELMING.
THEY WERE SHINAGAWA PREFEC-TURE'S REPRESEN-TATIVES AT THE NATIONALS THIS YEAR.
JUST TO BE CLEAR, THIS ISN'T LIKE SPORTS.
KOTO COMPETITIONS DON'T WORK BY ELIMINATION LIKE IN SPORTS TOURNAMENTS.
THAT'S NOT THE POINT!
HEEHEE
OHH~
SO IF WE BEAT THEM, WE GET TO REPRESENT SHINAGAWA, HUH...

REGARDLESS OF WHETHER IT'S THE NATIONALS OR A MUSIC FESTIVAL COMPETITION,
ALL REPRESENTING SCHOOLS WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO PERFORM.
THE JUDGES' MARKS WILL THEN DECIDE YOUR SCHOOL'S OVERALL RANK.

ISN'T THAT GOOD NEWS FOR US?
WE CAN LISTEN TO KANAGAWA'S TOP SCHOOLS PLAY AND LEARN FROM THEM!
THAT'S CALLED SCOUTING OUT THE ENEMY!

I STILL DON'T REALLY GET IT...
MUSICAL PERFORMANCES CAN'T BE GRADED AS RIGIDLY EITHER.
DEEP IN THOUGHT

THE JOINT PRACTICE SESSION...
ARE YOU A... COMING ...?

WOW ...!
Hiro-sempai's fired up!
EVEN THOUGH I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT KOTO,
I DON'T WANT TO LOSE TO THAT GIRL...!
HEY,
WAIT A SEC.
FIRED UP...

"IT WILL BE HELD AT MEIRYO AS WELL."
...
OF COURSE WE ARE.
ARE YOU SAYING WE CAN'T?
AH... NO...
"I'LL BE RELYING ON YOU AGAIN WHEN WE GET INTO HIGH SCHOOL!"
"WE'RE ALSO GONNA WORK HARD TO GET INTO MEIRYO."
"IF YOU KEEP THIS UP, MEIRYO WILL BE A PIECE OF CAKE!"
"YOU GOT THE TOP SCORE AGAIN, KURATA."
"UWAH... AMAZING!"
"WE CAN ALL BE TOGETHER AGAIN!"
"YES, I'M NOT DREAMING, AM I? I GOT IN!"
"MY NAME'S THERE TOO!"
"ME TOO."

HUH?
YOU DECIDE.
!
YOU'RE THE CLUB LEADER AFTER ALL.
WE DON'T HAVE TO GO IF YOU DON'T WANNA HEAR THEM PER-FORM.

...MY OWN MATTERS HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH EVERYONE ELSE.
SINCE WE'VE BEEN INVITED, LET'S ALL GO.
...NO.
WHAT AM I THINKING...
HONESTLY...
WAH... WHAT IS IT? WHAT IS IT?.
UWAHH... AMAZING!
AH, I ALMOST FORGOT!
I'VE BROUGHT SOME CLASSICAL PIECES THAT I SHORTLISTED TO PLAY AT THE MUSIC FESTIVAL.
...
久遠
WOW
KU-ON.
IT'S THE SAME KANJI AS MY NAME...!
SHIJUUSOU.
SEKIJUN.

I'VE NEVER HEARD OF THIS PIECE CALLED "KU-ON."
久遠
THAT'S THE ONE GRANNY SHIZU-SAN RECOMMENDED ...
This one is read Sekijun.
Wah
I PICKED THESE THREE FOR NOW...
"SEKIJUN" AND "SHIJUUSOU" ARE BOTH POPULAR PIECES FOR COMPETITIONS.
IS THIS MY PIECE ...?
SPARKLE SPARKLE SPARKLE
久遠
IT'S NOT A WELL-KNOWN PIECE, BUT I THINK IT WILL SUIT US JUST FINE...
FIRST MY OWN KOTO, NOW MY OWN PIECE...
Must be the koto god's chosen one
NO, YOU'RE JUST OVER-THINKING IT.
How rude
HAHA
YEAH.
I FELT THAT THE TITLE OF THE PIECE WAS PARTICULARLY MEANINGFUL.

WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT SORT OF PIECE THIS IS.
LET ME SEE.
IT'S MY PIECE, OF COURSE IT'S GOOD!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE.
OKAY, IT'S DECIDED. WE'RE GONNA GO WITH THIS FOR THE MUSIC FESTIVAL.
A SOLO SECTION, A DUET, A TRIO, AND THEN A 17-STRING QUARTET SECTION...
THEN IT SPLITS AT THE MIDDLE INTO TWO PARTS...
FLIP
THE SOLO PART AND THE 17-STRING SECTION WILL BE DIFFICULT,
ESPECIALLY THE SOLO PART, WHEN THE PIECE SPLITS INTO TWO PARTS. THAT WILL BE TRICKY.
THAT'S GREAT.
ALL THOSE SIMPLE PIECES WERE STARTING TO BORE ME ANYWAY
YOU'RE GONNA PLAY THE SOLO THEN, ARE YOU?
Cause I won't

...YEAH, BUT
THIS PIECE SEEMS VERY BEAUTIFUL.
IF WE PRACTICE THIS THOR-OUGHLY,
IT WILL PROBABLY SOUND AMAZING.
THEN...
LET'S GO WITH "KU-ON" FOR THE MUSIC FESTIVAL!
YEAH! IT'S DECIDED !!!
YAY! I'M EXCITED!
LET'S START PRACTICING STRAIGHT-AWAY.
WAIT, WAIT, WE NEED TO DECIDE THE PARTS FIRST...
SENPAI,
Wow.
Should I take the solo?
Or should I just do the keys?
THANK YOU FOR FIND-ING THIS PIECE.

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS NEW PIECE.
BECAUSE OF YOU, WE CAN START PRACTICING RIGHT AWAY.
THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR.

Wah
Wahh
This piece is gonna to leave those Himesaka girls speechless.
Heeh heeh
WELL,
AT LEAST WE'VE SORTED THIS PART OF THE MUSIC FEST.VAL OUT
HOUTSUKI-SAN?!
Are you sure?
OKAY, LET'S START PRACTICING.
HUH?
WE'VE ALREADY DECIDED?!
YOU AND CHIKA-KUN CAN HAVE THE SOLO PARTS.
KURATA...

1 hour later

I'M WORRIED ALREADY...

AS EXPECTED OF MY PIECE...

ACTUALLY, CAN WE PLAY SOMETHING ELSE?

This one's too mayo

SFX: GLOOM

SORRY

IF YOU'RE GOING TO ANOTHER SCHOOL, I'LL NEED TO GET PERMISSION FIRST.

NEXT WEEK, HUH...

STAFF ROOM

IT'LL BE A GOOD CHANCE FOR THOSE GUYS TO SEE REALITY.

WELL, IT SHOULD BE OKAY.

HIMESAKA AND MEIRYO ARE BOTH ELITE SCHOOLS, RIGHT?

A MUSIC EXCHANGE SESSION?

THE REALITY YOU EXPERIENCED LAST YEAR.
REALITY?
KNOWING THE TRUTH IS VERY IMPORTANT...
NO NEED TO PUT ON SUCH A SCARY EXPRESSION.

IF YOU REALLY WANT TO GET TO THE TOP.
HEY ONE MORE TIME, FROM THE TOP.
!!!
TAKA
TAKA
TAKA
TAKA
TAKA
TAAA...

LIKE I SAID, IT'S DIFFICULT.
ARE YOU GOING TO QUIT?
SHUT UP!
THIS IS THE PART WHERE I CAN NEVER PLAY IN TIME WITH THE METRONOME!
THE HELL!
HEY, CAN YOU STOP ACTING LIKE THAT?
IT'S EMBARRASSING.
URGHHH!
ANOTHER MISTAKE! THE RHYTHM HERE IS SO DIFFICULT!
Because there are sixteenth notes at 160 BPM. It's too fast!
BANG
JUST HELPING YOU GUYS OUT IS TAKING UP ALL MY TIME!
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS.
YOU ALREADY KNOW HOW TO PLAY THE 17-STRING PART?
OH YEAH... DOES THIS MEAN...
!!
YOU TOLD THE HIMESAKA GIRLS THAT YOU WERE "FINE" HERE.
OH YEAH.
IT'S...OKAY. I DIDN'T MEAN TO SOUND LIKE THAT...
!
IS THAT SO. MY BAD FOR SLOWING YOU DOWN.
...

NOTHING. JUST THAT I GUESS YOU'RE SERIOUS ABOUT BEING A KOTO PRO, HUH?
HAH?

SO...
SO WHAT?

"THE YOUNG VIRTUOSO KOTO PLAYER THAT LED A NO-NAME SCHOOL CLUB TO BECOME NUMBER 1 IN THE NATION HAS FINALLY DEBUTED!"
"IT WILL DEFINITELY BE EYE-CATCHING!"

CAUSE. YOU ONLY JOINED OUR CLUB JUST TO GIVE YOUR FUTURE DEBUT AN INTERESTING STORY, RIGHT?

IS THERE SOMETHING YOU WANT TO SAY?
I'M USING YOU GUYS TO BECOME A KOTO PRO.
TSK... YOU'RE RIGHT. THAT WAS IT.

TH-
THAT WAS...
WHAT? AM I WRONG?
YOU...

WHY ARE YOU GETTING ANGRY?
SO IT'S OKAY IF I JOINED THE CLUB FOR SUCH A REASON?
NOTH-ING AT ALL?
NO.
NOTHING AT ALL.

THAT'S THE REASON WHY
OUR PERFOR-MANCE WILL AFFECT YOUR FUTURE.
IN FACT, WE HAVE A HUGE RESPONSIBILITY, RIGHT?
...
FIRST, WE BEAT THOSE ANNOYING GIRLS AND THEIR SCHOOL!!!
FWP

MORE THAN THAT. .
MY HOPES TO BECOME A PRO WAS ONE REASON, BUT ..
I... I...
WHEN I SAID I WAS "FINE" HERE .
I...
I LIKE PLAYING KOTO WITH EVERYONE.
...THAT'S ALL.

SFX: HEH
...UGH.
OH REALLY~
...
...
PFFFFT.
WHAT'S WRONG?!
GYA HAHA HAHA
HOW COME YOU'RE BLUSHING FROM YOUR OWN WORDS?
LAME.
HUUUH?! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU. YOU'RE THE WORST!!!
IDIOT.
BRAT...

HAHA
SFX BAM
UGH.
HMPH
YOU

Doki
SATURDAY

MEIRYO SENIO

KOTO CLUB

HEY, HEY, KAZUSA-CHAN.

ARE THEY REALLY GOING TO COME TODAY?

THE PERSON YOU LIKE AND HER FRIENDS?

THEY'RE DEFINITELY COMING.

SATOWA-CHAN DOESN'T REALLY WANT TO STAY THERE.

BUT IT'S ALREADY 10 O'CLOCK.

THE MAIN CHARACTERS ALWAYS ARRIVE LATE.

HA HA

MAIN CHARAC-TERS, HUH.

WELL, THEY ARE, FOR KAZUSA-CHAN AT LEAST.

THIS WILL BE INTERESTING.

OUSUKE!
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP FLIRTING? IT'S NEARLY TIME TO START!
GOT IT.
DON'T YOU DARE LAY A FINGER ON SATOWA-CHAN.
HOLD IT.
YEP, COMING.

SFX: DASH DASH DASH DASH

AH, SUZUKA-CHAN'S HERE ALREADY.
THAT'S MEIRYO?!
HEY, CAN WE STOP RUN-NING?
THERE WAS NOTHING WE COULD DO. THE TRAIN WAS LATE.
NO.
EVEN THOUGH OUR MEETING TIME WAS SO EARLY!
CRAP, WE'RE 15 MINUTES LATE...
SO-SORRY ...
PANT PANT
WHAT THE HELL, I CAN'T BELEVE YOU GUYS KEPT ME WAITING.
Why do I even put in all this effort?

LET'S GET MOVING THEN
SFX FWOOSH

WHAT'S WRONG?

CHIKA! TAKEZOU-SENPAI! HURRY UP!

AH.
NOTHING.

NO.
I'VE NEVER SEEN THEM BEFORE IN MY LIFE.

SOME-ONE YOU KNOW?
ANIKI...? WHY IS HE AT MEIRYO...?

YEAH, SORRY.
DASH DASH ..

A BITTER PAST... THE COMPETITION AHEAD... EACH PERSON SINKS DEEP INTO THEIR OWN THOUGHTS...

勉強会番外編～高校受験～

おわり

ものすごく
どうでもいい裏話

#13 チカたちが
勉強会で
アホなやりとりを
している中…

エッ！
今日！

作者は
瀕死だった

ゼェッ
ゼェッ

人様が原稿を
助けに来て下さる
初日から
体調不良が続き

ゼェ
ゼェ…

後日談
超ゼェゼェ
言ってたから
かまってほしい
のかと思ったよ

指定も
どんどん
ひどくなり

へへ…

後日談
指さして
ヘラヘラ
笑ってる
だけだった

そしてついに
もうムリだ

す…すみません
今日もう
上がって頂いて
いいですか…

ある日の
PM19:00

ゼー

その場にいた
あたたかい
みなさま

調べたら
病院まだ
やってるよ！

点滴打って
もらいな！
けっこー楽に
なったりするよ

無言で
キャリーケースに
原稿を入れる先輩
（仕事を持ち帰って下さった）

その後 病院の
待ち合い室にて
どうしよう
まだ最後6枚
下絵すら出来てない
しかも見開き…
このままじゃ
原稿落とす!!!
終わりだ…!!
という恐怖の中
すがるように
お医者さんに
病状をうったえる
吐き気がすごくて
具合悪くて
あと ひたすら
気持ち悪くて
ぜぇー
ぜぇー
うぅぅ

うん
具合悪いのと
気持ち悪いのは
一緒だね
他には?

がーん!!
つっこまれた…!!
こんな具合悪そうに
してるのに…!?
じゃあかつ丼系統とか
血液検査もしてこう
そして
点滴を打ちながら
情けなくて泣く
しょうもねぇ
ほんとしょうもねぇ
う…3巻の時
寝込んだばっか
なのに…
みんなに自己管理
ちゃんとしろって
怒られたばっかなのに

そして お医者さんが
血液検査の結果を
伝えに

その後
周りの方からの
あたたかい
励ましメールやら

差し入れやらに
救われ

何とか無事#13を
描き上げることが
出来たのでした

毎日手作りスープを
もってきて下さった…

みなさま本当に
ありがとう
ございました…!!

来栖妃呂

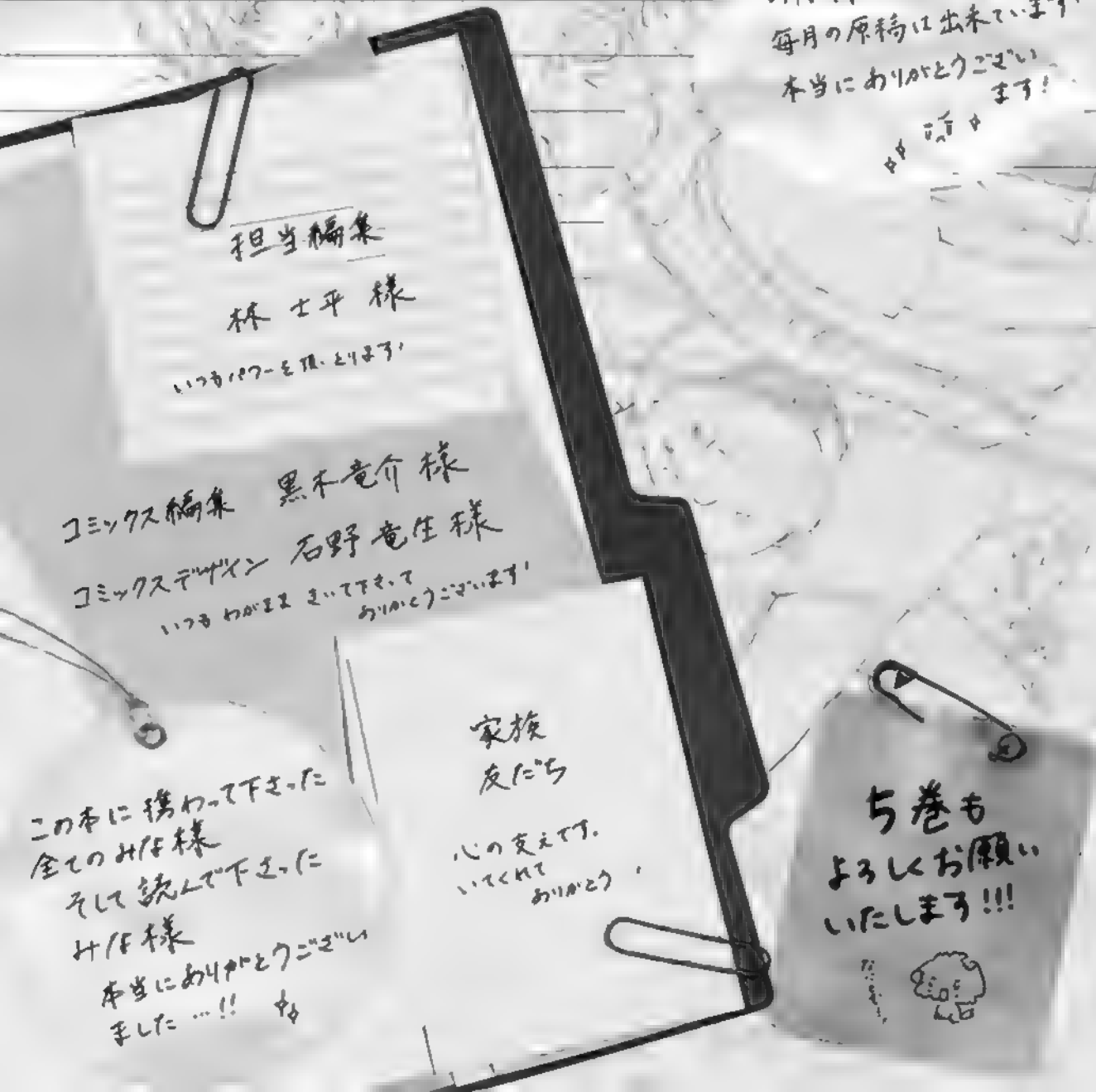
誕生日：10月19日
星　座：天秤座
血液型：A型
身　長：161cm
体　重：♪
兄　弟：一人っ子
好きなもの：~~イカの塩辛~~マカロン♡
苦手なもの：レトルトとか
学校が休みの日は：ショッピング

⚠ 元はサバサバしていて思ったことも
ズケズケ言ってしまうため、
中学時代は敵を作りやすかった
ようです。
中学でのことをきっかけに
表面上の顔を作ることを
覚えました。

SPECIAL THANKS

夕希 史久 様　遠藤 達哉 様　木村 聡 様
木ノ下 奈史 様　岡野 コ之 様　壱凡七宇 様
平浜 矢陸 様　浅月 舞 様　朝吹 まり 様
市川 るき 様　中村様　池田様　稜乃様　はんざわ様　上稚様
（順不同）

みな様に助けて頂いて
毎月の原稿が出来ています！
本当にありがとうございます！



担当編集
林 士平 様
いつもパワーを頂いております！

コミックス編集　黒木竜介 様
コミックスデザイン　石野竜生 様
いつもわがまま言ってすみません、ありがとうございます！

この本に携わって下さった
全てのみな様
そして読んで下さった
みな様
本当にありがとうございました…!!

家族
友だち
心の支えです。
いてくれてありがとう。

5巻も
よろしくお願い
いたします!!!

この音とまれ！

4巻

アミュー

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HOW DO YOU LIKE YOUR MANGA?

FRIED SQUID SCANS

FRIEDSQUID.WEEBLY.COM

KONO OTO TOMARE!

CHAPTER 12

<ENTER>

RAW SOURCE: PIXIV

TRANSLATOR: SUPERSLEUTHER

PROOFREADER: JAE

CLEANER/REDRAWER: SAR

TYPESETTER: (MO)FROSTBITE

QUALITY CHECKER: JAE

HOW DO YOU LIKE YOUR MANGA?

FRIED SQUID scans

FRIEDSQUID.WEEBLY.COM

KONO OTO TOMARE!

CHAPTER 13

<ENTER>

RAW SOURCE: ECYMD

TRANSLATOR: SUPERSLEUTHER

PROOFREADER: JAE

CLEANER: RAVENANNE

TYPESETTER: RAVENANNE

QUALITY CHECKER: JAE

FRIEDSQUID.WEEBLY.COM

KONO OTO TOMARE!

CHAPTER 14

REVISED SEPT 07 2015

TRANSLATOR
SUPERSLEUTHER

PROOFREADER
MAI

CLEANER/REDRAWER
AKI

TYPESETTER
[MD]FROSTBITE

QUALITY CHECKER
JAE

We previously made some translation errors... Fixed it here in Version 2!!!

BONUS! FEATURING A FAN-COLORED PAGE BY HIMEDERESAMA

HTTP://HIMEDERESAMA.TUMBLR.COM/
HTTP://CARLY4015.DEVIANTART.COM/

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KONO OTO TOMARE!

CHAPTER 15

TRANSLATOR
SUPERSLEUTHER

PROOFREADER
ARI

CLEANER/REDRAWER
AKI

TYPESETTER
JAE

QUALITY CHECKER
JAE

FRIED SQUID SCANS IS RECRUITING
J>E TRANSLATORS, C>E TRANSLATORS
CLEANERS/REDRAWERS, TYPESETTERS

DID YOU KNOW...
IT TOOK 6 HOURS TO
TYPESET THIS CHAPTER?